Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 190

www.saipantribune.com | FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Entry requirements updated for unvaccinated travelers. PAGE 3

Casino commissioner Songao resigns. PAGE 4

$1

TSC 1 still in effect today

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tropical Depression 20W is expected to become stronger and turn into a tropical storm as it continues to move away from the Marianas, prompting the CNMI government to maintain Tropical Storm Condition 1 for the CNMI until this afternoon.

According to the National Weather Service in Guam, tropical storm conditions, including sustained winds of 39 to 74 mph, are expected for the Marianas, including the CNMI, throughout the day.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres

See TSC 1 on Page 4

The torrential rain brought by the glancing blow from yesterday's Tropical Depression 20W caused several areas on Saipan to be flooded, including this portion of Susupe. JAYVEE VALLEJERA

TRIP extension can build momentum for tourism's resumption

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By BRIAN SHIN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Brian Shin is chief executive officer of Micronesia Resort Inc., a subsidiary of the South Korean tourism and retail conglomerate, E-Land Group. He leads the operation of the Kensington Hotel Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and the Coral Ocean Golf Resort. As a key stakeholder in the industry, he serves as a member of the Tourism Infrastructure Reboot Committee for the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers, an advisory council for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. The GCEA's mission is to improve the quality of life in the Marianas for all residents.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck in March 2020, the Marianas' borders were immediately closed to visitors. Some hotels stopped their operations, while some remained partially open, leaving many people without a job or working shortened hours. At the

See TOGETHER on Page 4

$144.8M budget bill now with Torres

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The budget bill is now on the desk of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres after the House of Representatives adopted yesterday afternoon the final "product" of the bicameral conference committee that worked out a $144.84-million budget for CNMI government operations for fiscal year 2022.

Combining the general fund and the $175 million allocated

See BUDGET on Page 4

House of Representatives sergeant-at-arm Pedro Towai hands over the Legislature-approved copy of the budget bill for Fiscal Year 2022 to Amelia Shai, the special assistant for programs and legislative review, at the Governor's Office yesterday at 2:34pm. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

AT A GLANCE

As of 7:18pm, Sept. 23, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: 81.5%

Days since last community transmission: 183

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	29,955
Fully Vaccinated:	29,172
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,857
Fully Vaccinated:	4,594
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	791

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	13,997	101	14,098
Recovered	10,826	152	10,978
Active	2,835	101	2,936
Deaths	182	2	184

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	265	0	265
Traced via Travel Screening	228	0	228
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2

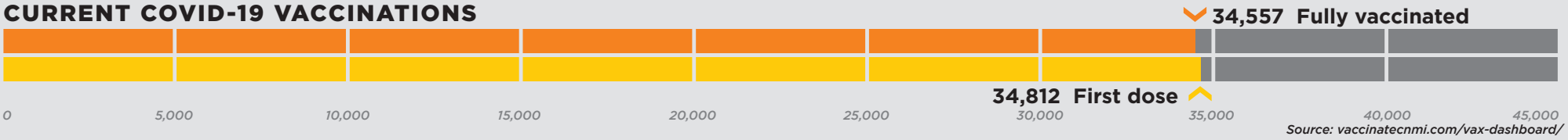
Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

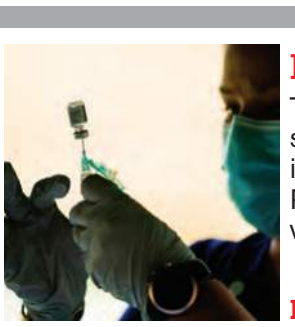
CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



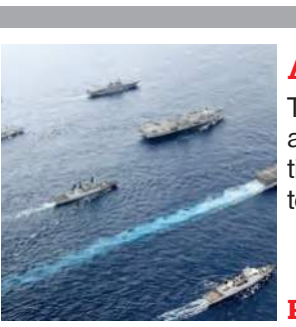
Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

LOCAL
VOICES of the CNMI self-advocate leaders share their position statements with lawmakers.
PAGE 7



BUSINESS
The U.S. moves a step closer to offering booster doses of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine.
PAGE 14



ASIA
The U.S. and its allies are becoming assertive in their approach toward a rising China.
PAGE 16

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

NMTI 'kickoff' on Sept. 27

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

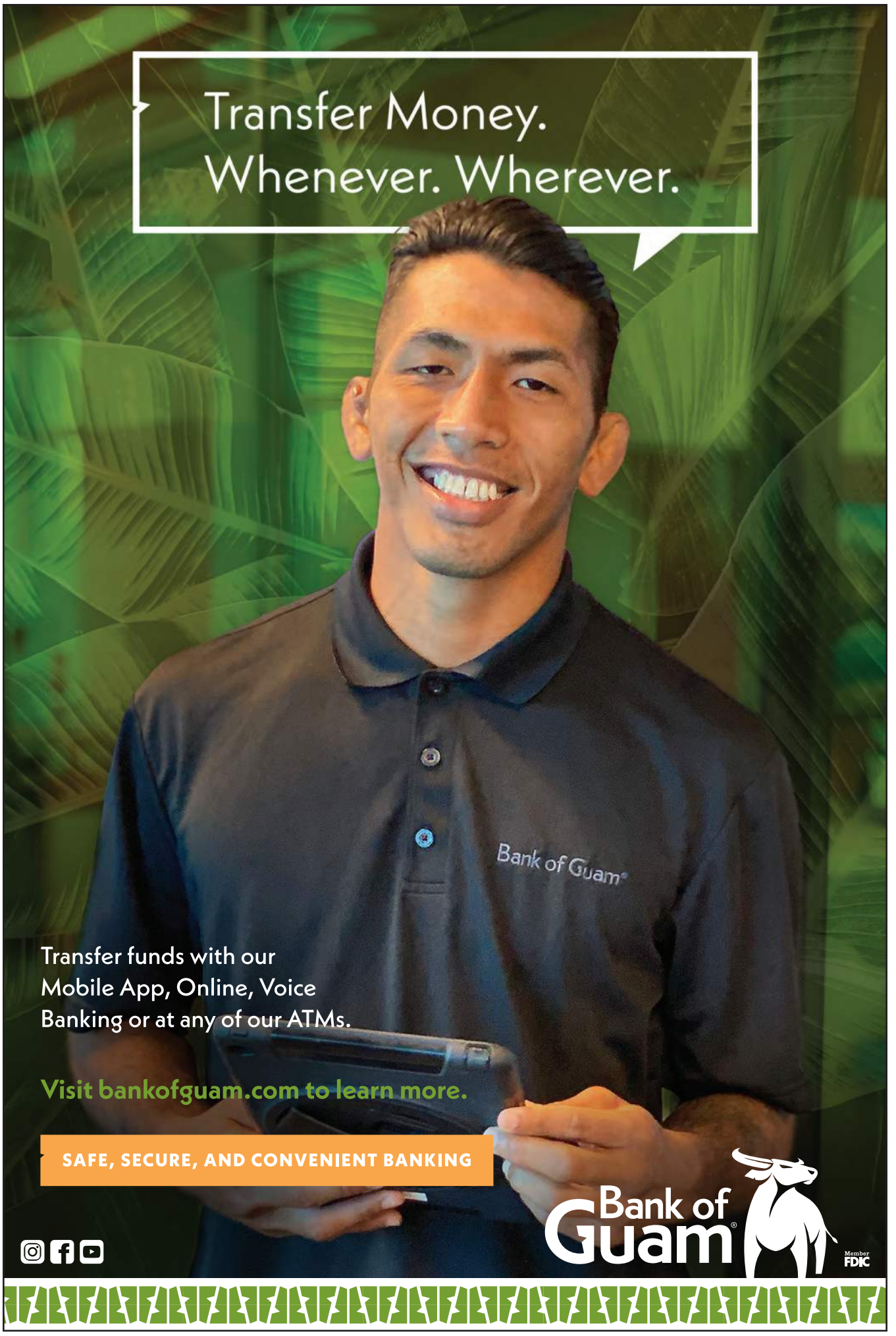
The Northern Marianas Technical Institute will be holding a "kickoff ceremony" on Monday at its Lower Base facility to celebrate the milestones that the trade school has achieved in the last six months.

During the event, there will be a signing of an interagency agreement between NMTI and the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. to make official the trade school's Workforce Development Training Scholarship Program, a signing of a memorandum of agreement between NMTI and the Department of Corrections, and a ribbon-cutting to mark the opening of NMTI's financial aid office at its main campus in Lower Base.

According to NMTI interim chief executive officer Jodina Attao Thursday, the Workforce Development Training Scholarship Program was made possible through a Community Development Block Grant under the Disaster Recovery Program. NMTI applied for this grant through the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., and the scholarships will be made available to NMTI's low to moderate-income students who are studying construction-related trades.

The memorandum of agreement between NMTI and the DOC will make official a pilot program that will be a part of the DOC's Outreach Program for inmates that will allow them to avail of trades courses at NMTI. Attao said Thursday that she, Corrections Commissioner Wally Villagomez, DOC Sgt. Jeff Quitugua, and DOC legal counsel Leslie Healer worked closely the past five months to set up the pilot program.

Attao added that once the pilot program begins, an NMTI instructor will be reporting to a classroom at DOC twice a week for 20 weeks to teach inmates "CORE: Introduction to Basic Construction Skills." Upon completion of the prerequisite courses, inmates will be asked to fill out an interest survey to choose a specialized course that they will participate in and complete next.



HANA
HEALTH MASSAGE
NEW LOCATION
MASSAGE
SERVICES OFFERED
▪ Body (Oil) Massage ▪ Foot Massage (with medicine) ▪ Cupping Therapy (Suction cup massage for back pain)
▪ NEW! Table Shower and Body Scrub Spa - Soon in San Antonio Location
SPECIAL PROMO
▪ 90 minutes Body (Oil) Massage $25
Locations: ▪ MSV Building, Chalan Kanoa across Moonlight
▪ NEW location → San Antonio, across Afetna Super Market
10:00AM TO 12:00AM • Call HANA: 789-7778

CNMI entry requirements updated for unvaccinated travelers

Effective Sept. 24, 2021, all inbound travelers who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are required to quarantine for seven days in a designated government facility if they submit a negative PCR test dated no earlier than 48 hours prior to arrival, or 10 days if they do not submit a negative PCR test dated no earlier than 48 hours prior to arrival. Fully vaccinated travelers are still required to quarantine for five days in a designated government facility.

In an Office of the Governor news release yesterday, it said the revised entry requirements for unvaccinated travelers is based on guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

It said all travelers will still be tested for COVID-19 on arrival and on their fifth day in quarantine. Fully vaccinated travelers will be released after they test negative for COVID-19 on the fifth day.

Unvaccinated travelers will be tested on their fifth day in quarantine, but will be released on their seventh day if they test negative and have submitted a negative PCR test dated no earlier than 48 hours prior to arrival. Unvaccinated travelers who have not submitted a negative PCR test will be released on their tenth day if they test negative on their fifth-day test. The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. may conduct additional PCR tests on the seventh or tenth day when deemed clinically necessary.

All travelers who test positive for COVID-19 will be isolated in the designated government facility for 10 days.

Fully vaccinated travelers must include their vaccination documentation in their mandatory health declaration form prior to their arrival. CDC Vaccination Record Cards are not acceptable vaccination records for the purpose of quarantining for five days only.

For individuals who were vaccinated in the CNMI, the CHCC Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team will look up CHCC vaccination records to verify that the individual is fully vaccinated.

» COVID-19 Infoline updates number and hours

For individuals who were vaccinated outside the CNMI, they will have to provide an official immunization record from their vaccine provider that must include the following information: name of immunization record provider, traveler's name, traveler's date of birth, type of vaccine administered, vaccine name, vaccine lot number, and vaccine administration date.

Essential workers requesting entry into CNMI must complete the essential worker request section within the online CNMI Mandatory Declaration Form at least three days prior to arrival. The request will be reviewed by the CNMI Territorial Health Official for a decision. Not all requests are automatically approved.

Travelers who are requesting Critical or Essential Work approval will be evaluated based on the strength of work justification, point of origin, negative PCR test results dated no more than 72 hours prior to arrival, COVID-19 vaccinations, and transit/flight plans. Grantees are required to practice COVID-19 precautions at all times and abide with other establishments' social distancing expectations.

Essential workers may report to work after receiving their test results from specimen collected on the day of arrival and approval of job-site assessment. Travelers in this category are urged to communicate with the CNMI Territorial Health Official via travelers.health@chcc.health in advance of planning their trip to the CNMI.

An "essential worker" is one listed in the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers Advisory List accessible from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity, and Infrastructure Security Agency at http://www.cisa.gov/critical-infrastructure-sectors.

The CNMI, while recognizing CISA categories, has established a local process to consider modified quarantine for certain essential work needs critical for CNMI. Simply being in a CISA category should not be perceived as a reason to be exempted from our local procedures, nor does it confer "approved essential worker" for the CNMI.

All travelers are encouraged to fill out their health declaration form prior to arrival at https://governor.gov.mp/co-

See TRAVELERS on Next Page

CONGRESSMAN GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Representing the People of the Northern Mariana Islands
presents
THE 5TH ANNUAL NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE
FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
Create an app for any platform, using any coding language, and submit it for a chance to have your work on display in the U.S. Capitol Building.
Register online at CongressionalAppChallenge.us and submit your app by:
NOVEMBER 1, 2021
More information can be found at sablan.house.gov or by calling 670-323-2647/8 on Saipan, 433-2647 on Tinian, or 532-2647 on Rota.
Paid for by official funds authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives.

ARMATECH

Automatic Sliding Gate Operator Installer and Repairer
Tel: (670) 234-8895 | Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

Think safe. Be safe. Work safe.
Unsafe gas appliances can put you at risk from carbon monoxide poisoning, gas leaks, fires and explosion
Check your gas appliances frequently for:
- Distinct odor of rotten eggs
- A hissing sound
- Transparent vapor waves or frost spots

LP GAS WUSHIN
Since1983 Committed to Safety Excellence
For your LPGas needs, please call 322-7415 or 322-8733
Open from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday | 8:00am – 2:00pm Saturday

2022 HR-V IN STOCK NOW
HONDA

Starting at $149* per paycheck
28/34 CITY/HWY MPG
TINT & ZIEBART UNDERCOAT INCLUDED
SPORT & EX-L TRIMS AVAILABLE
Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU
BEACH ROAD, OLEAI, SAIPAN MP 96950
TEL. 234-5562
SHOWROOM HOURS: MON - FRI 8AM - 5PM • SAT 8AM - 12PM
www.joetenmotors.com
*2022 HR-V LX FWD at $26,995 with 20% down, 2.75% APR based on 72 months at 26 pay periods per year, O.A.C. Deferred financing $23,277.58. *See dealer for details.

Casino commissioner Songao resigns

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Diego M. Songao has resigned as Commonwealth Casino Commission commissioner representing Rota effective this month due to health reason.

CCC executive director Andrew Yeom confirmed yesterday that Songao, who did not attend last month's CCC board meeting, submitted his resignation letter two weeks ago.

Songao

Saipan Tribune learned that Songao is currently getting medical treatment in Nevada.

Songao started his term as commissioner on May 1, 2018. His term was supposed to expire on April 30, 2024. He served on the CCC board as its public affairs/media relations.

Even without Songao the commissioners can still hold a board meeting because only three commissioners are needed to have a quorum, Yeom said.

The remaining board members are chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero, vice chair Rafael S. Demapan, treasurer Mariano Taitano, and secretary Ramon M. Dela Cruz.

Songao, an educator, was sworn into CCC office on July 2, 2018. Prior to serving at CCC, he was a board member of the Commonwealth Development Authority and the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. He also served as the chairman of the Rota Casino Gaming Commission from 2009 to 2010. He was a senator representing Rota from 2002 to 2006.

CHCC board meeting on CUC bills canceled

A scheduled meeting of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s board of trustees yesterday was canceled due to Tropical Depression 20W.

The main item on the meeting agenda was to discuss an extension for CHCC's payment of its outstanding bills to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The CHCC board last met on Sept. 14 to discuss CHCC's options on how it will pay its millions owed to CUC. During that meeting, it was learned that, as of Aug. 15, 2021, CHCC owes CUC almost $25 million in utilities and almost $15 million in penalties accrued beginning from when CHCC was incorporated in 2011. During the Sept. 14 meeting, the board assessed different options on how to pay these bills, including but not limited to seeking legislative relief and pursuing an installment plan with CUC. ***(Joshua Santos)***

TSC 1

From Page 1

first declared Tropical Storm Condition 2 for the CNMI yesterday and later upgraded it to Tropical Storm Condition 1.

As of 5:31pm yesterday, the center of Tropical Depression 20W was last located at about 155 miles south-southwest of Saipan, 140 miles south-southwest of Tinian, 75 miles south-southwest of Rota, and 20 miles southwest of Guam. Tropical Depression 20W was last seen moving west-northwest at 17mph with maximum sustained winds of 35pmh.

The system is expected to maintain this general course with a slight decrease in forward speed through the weekend as it continues to intensify becoming a tropical storm sometime today.

As Tropical Depression 20W continues to pass through the Marianas, sustained tropical storm force winds are expected to carry on through the weekend with gusts up to 60mph possible, especially on Rota and Guam.

Meanwhile, as 20W strengthens, seas of 5 to 8 feet are expected to build to between 10 and 14 feet. Seas will begin to subside as 20W continues to move west-northwest.

A small craft advisory and a flash flood watch will remain in effect for the CNMI through this afternoon as heavy rainfall continues for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Government offices shutdown

All CNMI government offices were closed at 12pm yesterday and will remain closed today. A memo issued by the Office of the Governor yesterday cited the vulnerability of the CNMI as it continues to recover from Super Typhoon Yutu and Typhoon Mangkhut in 2018.

The CNMI Public School System and Northern Marianas College canceled classes on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota as of 12pm yesterday. Classes will remain cancelled today.

Shelters activated

Torres, in conjunction with the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, and PSS activated the following locations as shelters on Saipan and Tinian effective 4pm yesterday: Marianas High School, Kagman High School, and Tinian Elementary School.

There are currently no shelters open on the island of Rota but emergency managers on the island are currently monitoring the situation with shelters on standby.

Residents on Saipan and Tinian in tents are advised to go to the closest shelter to them for care, support, and relief during the rainy conditions.

Vaccinated individuals seeking shelter must bring their COVID-19 vaccination cards (CDC vaccine card) for vaccination verification.

In compliance with current CNMI COVID-19 protocols and to ensure the safety and health of all residents seeking shelter, the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will be conducting temperature checks and COVID-19 vaccination verifications prior to residents entering shelters.

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority was also activated yesterday to provide transportation to the shelters throughout the day. Residents can call (670) 664-2690 for transportation to designated shelters.

United Airlines flights delayed

United Airlines announced yesterday afternoon that due to inclement weather as a result Tropical Depression 20W, flights departing from and arriving at the A. B. Won Pat International Airport, Guam, from Sept. 23 through early morning of Sept. 24 will be affected.

United urges customers to check the latest status of their flights at united.com, the United app, or by calling United Reservations at 1-800-UNITED-1 (1-800-864-8331).

BUDGET

From Page 1

to the CNMI in the American Rescue Plan Act, the CNMI government will have at its disposal a total of $278,384,323 for government operations in the new fiscal year.

All 17 representatives present voted "yes" to adopt the conference committee's report during a regular session at the House chamber. Reps. Joseph Flores (Ind-Saipan) and Richard T. Lizama (D-Saipan) were absent.

Soon after House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) declared the passage of budget legislation, he asked the chamber, "Did I hear a clap?", prompting claps and cheers from representatives and some House staff.

The House entertained only the budget bill at the session because of yesterday's tropical depression.

The full Senate adopted the conference committee's report and passed the budget bill last Tuesday.

The budget bill is House Bill 22-72, in the form of HD3, SD1, Conference Committee Substitute 1.

After Villagomez signed the budget bill, House's sergeant-at-arms Pedro Towai immediately transmitted a copy of the bill to the Governor's Office yesterday at 2:34pm. Amelia Shai, the special assistant for programs and legislative review, received the copy of the bill. Shai was the only person at the Governor's Office at the time as government offices had been closed down starting at noon yesterday due to the bad weather.

Torres has to sign the bill before the fiscal year ends on Sept. 30, 2021. Without a budget bill for the new fiscal year, the CNMI government will be forced to have a partial shutdown.

In a later interview, Villagomez said he is happy with the smooth conference committee meeting, which took only a little over two hours and led to the quick passage of the budget bill yesterday.

Villagomez said the conferees compromised and reached an agreement. "That's pretty smooth. As a matter of fact, some of the constituents were thinking they [conferees] we're still meeting," he said.

Villagomez said the goal of the conference committee meeting was to meet for just two to three days at the most, and they did it in less than three hours. "So that's what I call smooth," he said.

Ideally, the governor should be granted 20 days to sign an appropriations bill, Villagomez said, but this bill will still give him eight days to review it.

Villagomez said they did try to meet the 20-day target but the House and Senate each had their own goals in terms of how they want this budget to work out.

"If anything, at least he has eight days and not three hours. I am happy with how it turned out," he said.

Villagomez said things can always come up better but there were circumstances that came out, like the administration had to resubmit a revised budget last July 1. "So we had to work from there and also scheduling and on all those things," he added.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

TOGETHER

From Page 1

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, only one airline company was operating on a limited schedule, causing airport revenues to nosedive.

The tourism industry, the main economic driver of the Marianas, took a heavy blow from the pandemic right when we were on track to recover from Super Typhoon Yutu. What came next were months of uncertainty about how we would survive this crisis.

Fortunately, federal aid allowed individuals and businesses to stay afloat. However, we all know this assistance will come to an end, and we must take the initiative to start the long road to recovery. The Marianas Visitors Authority, after extensive meetings with industry stakeholders, came up with the Tourism Resumption Investment Plan, a program to provide subsidies to airlines, hotels, travel agencies, and related businesses to help jumpstart tourism.

The Marianas has done a great job in managing the pandemic, and as a result, was able to establish a Travel Bubble agreement with South Korea and implement a plan to safely reopen our doors to travelers.

The Marianas finally welcomed visitors last July after more than a year without tourism arrivals. The Travel Bubble started at a slow pace for the first two months as expected. Resumption after a pandemic is something that we've never done before. It took time to understand the process and learn how to execute a plan. This month, the numbers continue to grow, and we welcomed 303 visitors this past week.

After the quarantine period and when a negative test is received, these visitors are allowed to patronize other establishments, which have also called back their furloughed employees. The ripple effects of the Travel Bubble agreement and TRIP on small businesses are evident. Restaurants, bars, cafés, retail stores, car rentals, and others have also reopened.

MVA is extending the TRIP program until December. This is perfect timing as the last quarter is considered a high season for the Marianas. The CNMI-South Korea Travel Bubble is one of the hottest topics in Korea. There are hundreds of positive reviews from visitors who experienced the program. Tourists are appreciating the opportunity to travel amid the pandemic, and they truly believe the Marianas is one of the safest places to visit despite some restrictions on their itineraries. We already have more than 4,000 reservations for the next three months waiting to be confirmed.

The effects are being felt beyond Saipan. More tourists from Korea are booking multi-island packages to experience Rota and Tinian, which are new destinations for them. It is a pleasant surprise to see more visitors stay for two weeks or longer. We have not witnessed this in the last few years.

Under the TRIP program, visitors will get travel vouchers when they visit Rota and Tinian, and these need to be spent on the islands. Providing travel bucks and other incentives is a common practice among competing destinations, especially at this time. For example, a hotel in Hawaii is offering a 40% discount on room rates for a 14-day stay or longer, while in New Orleans, one establishment is offering $3,000 for a monthlong stay with free daily breakfast. Some destinations are also covering the costs of PCR testing for tourists.

The Marianas' attractive offer, the COVID-19 Task Force's effective system of screening incoming passengers, and the island's high vaccination rate give our visitors confidence that the Marianas is a safe place to visit. As we continue to build South Koreans' confidence to travel to the Marianas, we can explore the possibility of offering our multi-island package to other markets, such as Japan. It takes time to create this momentum, and I truly believe we are on the right path to becoming one of the most successful destinations to revive its tourism industry.

For more information, visit the GCEA at cnmieconomy.com, engage on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

TRAVELERS

From Page 3

vid-19/travel.

Additionally, the COVID-19 Infoline has a new number and operating hours. For comments, concerns, and inquiries regarding entry or quarantine protocols, call (670) 488-0211 or email travel@vaccinatecnmi.com. The hotline runs from 8am to 8pm, Monday to Sunday.

The CNMI is reminded to watch out for misinformation and to follow updates directly from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC. The spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself.

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, contact the CHCC Tele-Triage hotline at (670) 233-2067. The hotline runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week. ***(PR/Saipan Tribune)***

BICYCLES

25% OFF

LUGGAGES

25% OFF

COOLERS & BBQ GRILLS

25% OFF

PLASTIC HOUSEWARES

25% OFF

WALL CLOCKS

25% OFF

BATH TOWELS

25% OFF

SUNGLASSES

25% OFF

MENS TEE SHIRTS & POLO SHIRTS

25% OFF

LADIES BLOUSES

25% OFF

BOYS TEE SHIRTS

25% OFF

GIRLS DRESSES

25% OFF

INFANT & TODDLER SETS

25% OFF

HANDBAGS & WALLETS

25% OFF

SHOES & SANDALS

20% OFF

COSMETICS

20% OFF

TOYS & GAMES

20% OFF

Autumn Savings Sale

FRIDAY - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 - 26, 2021

US CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS 22#

$14.99

ANDY'S SMOKED WHOLE HAM 19-22#

$2.49/lb.

BUTTERBALL TURKEY

$2.49/lb.

HOFFY DELITE SMOKED BACON 12oz

$3.49

CHUCKWAGON HOTDOGS 12oz

$1

DIAMOND G CALROSE RICE 15#

$11.99

SAPPORO ICHIBAN ORIGINAL RAMEN 24/3.5oz

$11.98/cs.

HAWAIIAN SUN DRINKS 12pk

$6.98

PURISS WATER 20/350ml

$4.98/cs.

JOETNE BUTANE GAS 7/4 PACK

$19.99/cs.

GROCERY/MARKET ITEMS

AJI CRISPY FRY ORIGINAL 30gr

BUY 3 FOR 99¢

CHEF BOYARDEE SPAG MEATBAL 14.5oz

$1.59

DUNCAN CAKE CLASSIC YELLOW 15.25oz

$1.99

SUPERSOFT NAPKINS 160ct WHT

BUY 2 GET 1 FREE $2.99

TESSA TOILET PAPER 12 ROLLS

$7.99

U.S. EGGS X-LARGE WH 1DZ

$1.89

WC RED BEAN BUN PASTE

$6.99

BLUE MUSSEL MEAT 2lb

$7.49

POMFRET / POMPANO 400-800GR IQF

$3.99/lb.

NZ FROZEN SALMON FILLET S-ON B/O /LB

$13.99/lb.

MILKFISH SMOKED 350 - 400g

$4.75

ISOCREAM VANILLA ICECREAM 500ML

$5.99

ISOCREAM SLTD CARML ICECRM 500ML

$5.99

ISOCREAM CHOCOLATE ICECRM 500ML

$5.99

ISOCREAM STRAWBERRY ICECRM 500ML

$5.99

ISOCREAM COOKIE/CRM ICECRM 500ML

$5.99

Joeten Shopping Center

DISCLAIMER: Although Joeten strives to ensure that all pricing information on this ad is accurate, occasionally an error may occur and goods may be mispriced. We reserve the right to correct all typographical and pictorial errors.

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS.
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES

P.O. Box 500137 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. 234-6446/48 • Fax. 234-5876
Visit our 4-Branches: Joeten Susupe, Garapan, Dandan and Kagman

AMERICAN EXPRESS VISA MasterCard JCB

Targeted college book donations highlight US-Palau bonds

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
CLICK-IT OR TICKET
National Seat Belt Enforcement Mobilization
September 19-25, 2021 • Child Passenger Safety Week
September 25, 2021 • National Seat Check Saturday
WHEN IS YOUR CHILD READY TO MOVE TO THE NEXT CAR SEAT?
MAYBE NOT AS SOON AS YOU THINK! MANY PARENTS MOVE THEIR CHILD TO THE NEXT RESTRAINT TYPE TOO SOON.
REAR-FACING CAR SEAT
FRONT-FACING CAR SEAT
BOOSTER SEAT
SEATBELT ALONE
CHECK OUT THE GUIDE BELOW – AND ALWAYS MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD IS IN THE RIGHT SEAT FOR THEIR AGE AND SIZE.
BIRTH TO 3 YEARS:
REAR-FACING CAR SEAT, AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, UNTIL THEY EXCEED THE SEAT'S MAXIMUM HEIGHT OR WEIGHT LIMITS.
4-7 YEARS:
FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, UNTIL THEY EXCEED THE SEAT'S MAXIMUM HEIGHT OR WEIGHT LIMITS.
8-12 YEARS:
BOOSTER SEAT, UNTIL THEY FIT IN A SEAT BELT PROPERLY.
UNDER 13 YEARS:
SEAT BELT AND BACK SEAT. ALWAYS.
NHTSA
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
For more information call CNMI Department of Public Safety.
SAIPAN 664-9125/9084/85 | TINIAN 433-9222/2041 | ROTA 532-9433/9530
www.dps.gov.mp

HONOLULU, Hawaii—A group of off-duty U.S. Army soldiers in Hawaii have teamed up with professors and students at two American universities to provide targeted donations of textbooks for Dr. Kris Kitalong's students at Palau Community College in the Republic of Palau. Professors and students at Brigham Young University Hawaii and Northern Arizona University were eager to help. Dr. Naomi Lee, assistant professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Northern Arizona University recruited students and research assistants to locate and pack texts that Kitalong and his students needed. Kikiana Hurwitz, university laboratory manager and instructor in biochemistry and biology at BYU Hawaii, also organized volunteers among her students to find and box books.

Coordination for the donation came from Lt Col. John Yoshimori and several of his peers in the U.S. Army. Their unit, Task Force Oceania, was established to provide continuous support in the Pacific Island countries located in Oceania, assist U.S. embassies as needed, and reinforce lasting and meaningful relationships in the region. The soldiers volunteered their time after work hours to help pull the book donation together.

A U.S.-based nonprofit, Habele, which was established by former Peace Corps volunteer who served in Palau and neighboring Micronesia, pitched in to cover the costs of postage, with funds donated by former Peace Corps volunteers and other individual Americans.

"Knowledge is power! We must provide the next generation opportunities to improve oneself, to improve today for a better tomorrow," said John Yoshimori of Aiea. "It is my *kuliana* (responsibility) to ensure that the world I was born in is a better place for not just my children, but the children of the world. We all have to *malama pono* (take care) of each other if we are to achieve this vision."

Over the last six months more than a hundred boxes of books, totaling over 3,000 lbs, have been gathered by Yoshimori and other Habele volunteers for public schools across Palau and Micronesia.

"This is a great, collaborative project," said Habele founder Neil Mellen. "Educators in Palau, University professors, staff and students in Arizona and Hawaii, and individual volunteers throughout working to pair resources with specific locally stated needs. It is exciting to see how the long standing and historic partnership between the US and Palau works on such a personal, individual level." ***(PR)***

Self-advocate leaders share position statements with lawmakers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Council on Developmental Disabilities' VOICES of the CNMI self-advocate leaders representing Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, pose in a group photo with lawmakers, government officials, and DD Council officials outside the Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capitol Hill.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The Council on Developmental Disabilities' VOICES of the CNMI self-advocate leaders representing Saipan, Tinian, and Rota shared their position statements with lawmakers last Wednesday, calling for equal access and to improve opportunities for quality services, support, and action by all policymakers on behalf of individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

Self-advocate leaders of VOICES—which stands for "Very Outspoken Individuals Can Each Succeed"—of the CNMI read their position statements during a joint presentation before senators and representatives in the House of Representatives chamber.

VOICES of the CNMI, which was founded in 2013, has advocated for more options for people with disabilities to access quality services and support, reach economic self-sufficiency, and experience fairness and inclusion in all areas of community life.

After the presentation, leaders and members of the VOICES of the CNMI toured the Legislature, where lawmakers discussed with them about the legislative processes, among other issues.

Pamela Sablan, executive director of the CNMI Council on Development Disabilities, later said in an interview that VOICES of the CNMI was one of the initiatives that they helped establish in 2013, since it is in line with one of DD's mandates, which is to build self-advocacy and capacity. In order for that to happen, they support the VOICES of the CNMI, which is a self-advocacy organization led by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, Sablan said.

She said they support VOICES of the CNMI's activities by providing training, technical assistance, working with their partners—the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. and the CNMI University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities.

"We work together and also empower them so they have the skill sets to advocate for themselves and voice out what they need to improve their lives," Sablan said.

She said one way to do that is through legislation and when policymakers enact laws, sometimes they inadvertently exclude the "vulnerable populations."

VOICES of the CNMI has three chapters—Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Sablan said DD Council and the CNMI University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities shared in the cost to bring the self-advocates from Rota and Tinian for the presentation.

Sablan said the self-advocates are here to share what are their most pressing needs and how to work together to improve services in the CNMI.

Felipe Aquino Jr., a member of the VOICES of the CNMI as well as a board member of the DD Council, said they believe that all people deserve opportunities and equal access to inclusive programs and services.

The Tinian chapter of VOICES of the CNMI said their goals include continuing to push policy makers to support expanding the Center for Living Independently to Tinian to allow individuals with disabilities to have access to the center, to advocate for local funding to hire staff and for operations for CLI-Tinian, and to create a partnership with the Tinian Mayor's Office to utilize the accessible vehicle to allow individuals to come to the center.

The VOICES of the CNMI-Rota Chapter's goals include work with public and private entities to ensure public right of way, making sure that government programs and private businesses are accessible to the community; educating the public and private entities on the use of person's first language; and advocating that the public transportation system on Rota receives annual financial assistance form the Legislature in order to effectively operate the transit system.

The VOICES of the NMI-Saipan chapter's goals include advocating for sustainable local funding to the Department of Community and Cultural Affair's Commonwealth Respite Services Program so they are able to build capacity for respite services CNMI-wide, to continue to advocate for local funding to build the capacity of the Center for Living Independently on Saipan and to establish satellite locations on Tinian and Rota.

500 Sails offers sailing classes for women

The nonprofit group 500 Sails, which is seeking to revive the CNMI's sailing tradition, is offering sailing classes for women, which it calls the *Famalao'an Lalåyak* project.

The program aims to attract women and girls (12+) with parental consent. All classes are free.

The classes are held every Sunday, from 8am to 10am at the Guma Sakman in Susupe, just before Sunday Sails, which is from 10am to noon.

The classes have already begun starting last Sept. 19, 2021, and will end on Nov. 7, 2021. There are seven classes in all. Three of the classes are on land, four in/on the water. In addition, 10 practice sails must be completed as working crew.

500 Sails said that participants must pass swim tests on the first day of class (swim 400 meters and one-hour treading water.

For this coming Sunday, there will be a makeup required swim test this Saturday at 11am at Guma Sakman. Then first land class on Sunday will be at 8am-10am.

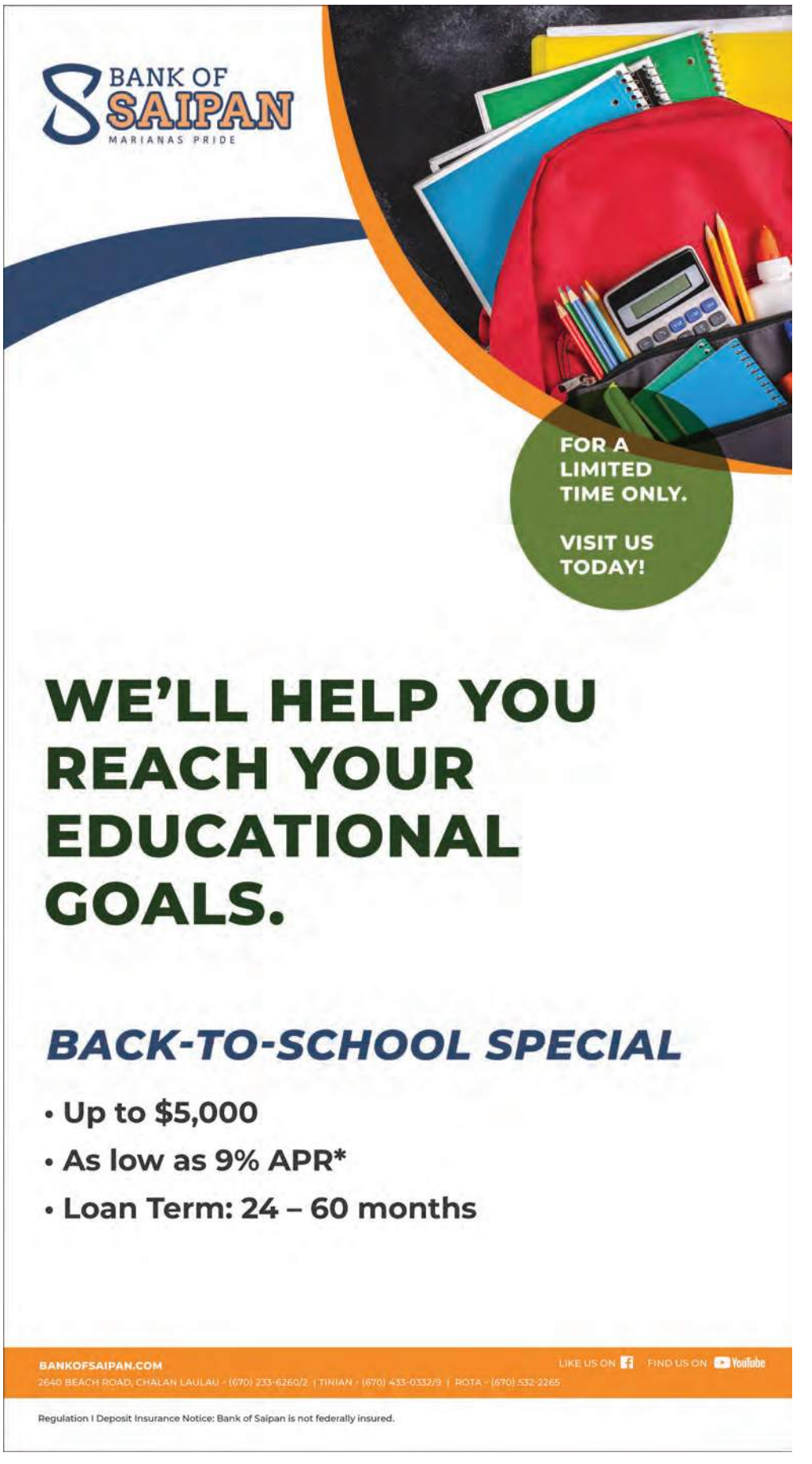
500 Sails explained in a news release that the project uses a curriculum of basic sailing skills developed by navigator Cecilio Raiukiulipiy and 500 Sails co-founder Peter Perez. Classes are taught by previous female cohort members.

"We are looking for women willing to give back to the community as instructors in future *Lalåyak* classes. Let's continue to revive the sailing traditions of the Marianas by working together," the group said in a statement.

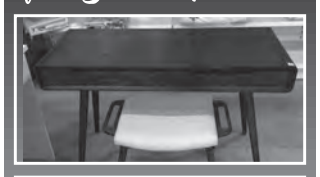
These Famalao'an Lalåyak classes from 8am-10am are a perfect addition to the Sunday Sails program run by navigator Mario Benito that takes place from 10am to 2pm, giving rides and introductory sailing experiences to new sailors.

For the final exams, both a written test and a practical test must be passed in order to be certified as crew or *mågus* (skipper). Final exam will be scheduled when participants have completed the required 10 practice sails.

For additional information email info@500sails.org **or** call 670-285-4268. ***(PR)***


BANK OF SAIPAN
MARIANAS PRIDE
FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY.
VISIT US TODAY!
WE'LL HELP YOU REACH YOUR EDUCATIONAL GOALS.
BACK-TO-SCHOOL SPECIAL
• Up to $5,000
• As low as 9% APR*
• Loan Term: 24 – 60 months
BANKOFSAIPAN.COM
LIKE US ON FIND US ON YouTube
2640 BEACH ROAD, CHALAN LAULAU • (670) 233-6260/2 | TINIAN • (670) 433-0332/3 | ROTA • (670) 532-2265
Regulation I Deposit Insurance Notice: Bank of Saipan is not federally insured.

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
Never satisfied until you are
NEW ARRIVAL
LAVATORY FAUCET, MIRROR, GARDEN TOOLS, G.I. PIPES, SQUARE TUBES, SHORING JACK PIPE, ROOFING TIN & MANY MORE ABS, CPVC, PVC, CONDUIT PIPES & FITTINGS ARE ALL MADE IN USA ELECTRICAL TOOLS, WATER HEATER & WINDOWS
NEW ARRIVAL Furniture

Make a Difference for Your House!


NEW ARRIVALS! VALSPAR PAINT
It's the suitable paint for the island climate. Makes your paint last for a long time!

LED LIGHTS
• Less money, 50% energy saving!
• More stable, bright, and fashionable!
• More longer and environmental protection!
Your Smart Choice!
G60 Rebar is Available Now!
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com
BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
DISCOVER MasterCard VISA

CEC certifies Magofna as NMI Democratic Party's candidate

Members of the Democratic Party of the NMI's central executive committee gathered this week to congratulate Corina L. Magofna for her certification as the party's official candidate in the special election on Oct 16.

Democratic Party of the NMI chair Nola Kileleman Hix said that Magofna received the call from the Commonwealth Election Commission last Friday with the notice of her certification as the party's official candidate.

"Although we were optimistic, we wanted to show our appreciation to Corina [for] visiting 50-plus houses a day, attending events/gatherings, making phone calls, and really working hard to win. Our party is doing what we can to ensure her success and we really would like to thank everyone who is stepping up to support her. I'd like to thank our grassroots supporters who have donated their time, efforts, and resources to this campaign. Corina is the one and…I am confident she will make us all proud," said Hix.

Magofna was issued an official certificate of candidacy from the party that acknowledged their nomination, endorsement, and support.

Herbert D. Soll, right, and Corina L. Magofna. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The special election is being held to fill the Precinct 3 seat vacancy due to the sudden passing of Precinct 3 representative, Ivan A. Blanco.

CEC member and former judge Herbert D. Soll wants to remind voters of the issues surrounding the CNMI and why Magofna is their candidate that will help restore order. "For one, she's on the right team and that in itself tells me that she will work with her Democratic colleagues to get the job done. I'm very impressed by her accounting experience, and her determination to balance the books that will ensure financial prudence moving forward," Soll said.

Magofna earned her bachelor's degree in Business Accounting from the University of Phoenix, and her associate degree in Accounting from the University of Hawaii. Her professional background includes 20-plus years in accounting, finance, budgeting, internal auditing and management.

"The CNMI people have had enough of the misuse and abuse, political intimidation and retaliation. I know Corina and she stands for good governance, she will fight corruption with the team and so I've asked my family and friends to support her and give her their votes in this upcoming Special Election," said CEC member Peter Muña.

Magofna has been endorsed by former Democratic governor Carlos S. Camacho, CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, Sens. Edith Deleon Guerrero and Paul Manglona, House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), and all Democratic House members in the 22nd Legislature.

Following the 2020 midterm elections Magofna finished seventh in the race for six House seats and would be next in line with the highest votes to fill the current vacancy.

The former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. budget officer says to the voters, "Don't vote for me because I'm your friend or your relative. Vote for me because I'm highly qualified for the job, and you trust me to work with your best interests at heart."

For more information, contact Magofna on Facebook or email her at corina.magofna@gmail.com

In the special election on Oct 16, Magofna is No. 1 on the ballot. The seven-day early voting will be from Oct 9 to Oct 15, with the Carolinian Affairs Office in Garapan as the polling site. The election day polling sites will be Oleai Elementary School for San Jose Precinct 3A and Garapan Elementary School for Precinct 3B. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PSS schools closed today

Due to the declaration of Tropical Storm Condition II, all of Public School System's classes on Saipan, Tinian and Rota were cancelled and students are dismissed at noon yesterday, Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021. Public schools on Saipan, Tinian and Rota will remain closed today, Friday, Sept. 24, 2021. ***(PR)***

No classes at MCS today

Due to the anticipated threat of Tropical Storm 20W, Mount Carmel School classes were canceled yesterday, Sept. 23 and today, Sept. 24, 2021, and the campus will be closed. MCS faculty and staff are advised to continue to carefully monitor announcements about the campus clean-up after the "All Clear" has been issued by the Office of the Governor. For official school updates, visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com.

NMC campuses to remain closed today

At 5:45pm, the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency announced that Tropical Storm Condition I has been declared for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Because of this lingering threat, Northern Marianas College campuses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will remain closed today, Friday, Sept. 24, 2021. NMC campuses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota were closed yesterday, Thursday. Classes that start after 12pm yesterday were canceled.

NMC encourages all students and employees to take precautionary measures and prepare for heavy winds, rain, and flooding. Further updates will be provided when available. Updates regarding the resumption of classes and other announcements will be made through student and employee email (@marianas.edu) and the following platforms:

- NMC website
- NMC Facebook Page
- NMC Twitter (@GoProa)
- NMC Instagram (@NMC.Proa)
- News outlets including radio stations ***(PR)***

Al-Anon Family Group 12 Step Support Group

Friends and family members of alcoholics and addicts are meeting every Saturday from 10:15am to 11:15am at Paradise Dental Spa, Middle Road, Gualo Rai as part of the Al-Anon Family Group 12 Step Support Group. AlAnon is a mutual support program for people whose lives have been affected by someone else's drinking or drug use. By sharing common experiences and applying the Al-Anon principles, families and friends of alcoholics and addicts can bring positive changes to their individual situations, whether or not the alcoholic or addict admits the existence of a drinking problem or seeks help.

For more information: call or text 783-1900, follow us on Facebook: Al-Anon Family Group CNMI, or visit www.al-anon.org. ***(PR)***

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of September 24, 2021

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Office of the Mayor of Tinian	09/07/2021 TSm-2021-003	Picnic Table Huts	San Jose, Tinian	Shoreline	Approved* 09/20/2021
2. B&J Corporation dba Dive Y2K	09/20/2021 SLR-2021-053	SCUBA Diving Tour Instruction/ Operation	All Designated Diving Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

PRESENTINGS SPONSORS

Tan Holdings

Tan Siu Lin Foundation

FIELD SPONSORS

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS 1978 OFFICIAL SEAL MUNICIPALITY OF TINIAN & AGUIGUAN

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS OFFICIAL SEAL 19 MAYOR OF ROTA 78

HERITAGE SPONSOR

J.C. TENORIO ENTERPRISES INCORPORATED

STARS & STRIPES SPONSORS

E·LAND GROUP Micronesia Resort Inc.

KENSINGTON HOTEL · CORAL OCEAN GOLF · PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

D&Q International Distributors A TanHoldings Company

IT&E

HOTEL VALENTINO

GPPC INC

Customers First TRIPLE J

TakeCare®

Marianas Variety News & Views

PATRON SPONSORS

docomo pacific Better Together

Shirley's COFFEE SHOP Home of the Best Fried Rice

First Hawaiian Bank

MAR PAC Inc. EST. 1973

OTHER SPONSORS

CITY TRUST BANK

HARDT EYE CLINIC & Diabetes Education Center

HYATT REGENCY SAIPAN

J.E.T. HOLDINGS COMPANY

QTC

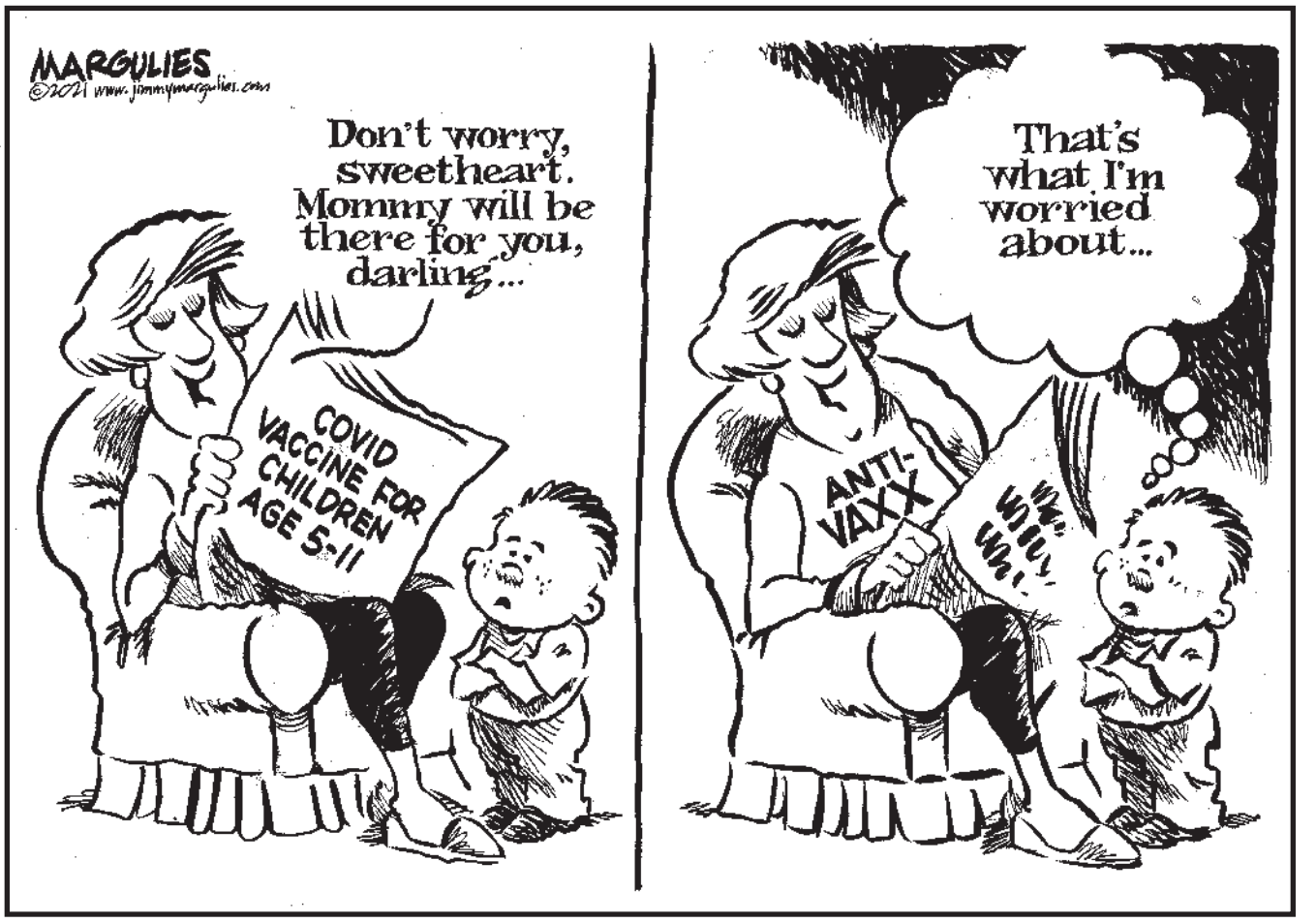
Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXI, Issue No. 190
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association


MARGULIES
©2021 www.jimmymargulies.com
Don't worry, sweetheart. Mommy will be there for you, darling...
COVID VACCINE FOR CHILDREN AGE 5-11
That's what I'm worried about...
ANTI-VAXX
WHO, WHO, WHO?

EDITORIAL

Let science lead the way on COVID booster shots

The Biden administration got ahead of the science last month in proposing to make all Americans vaccinated against COVID-19 eligible for a booster shot. That's why it was good to see a federal advisory panel last week reassert the role that data and critical thinking must play in managing this pandemic. The White House and public health experts may share the same goals, but science—not politics—must shape the nation's vaccination strategy.

An advisory panel to the Food and Drug Administration overwhelmingly rejected recommending broad-based booster shots for the Pfizer vaccine. Instead, the committee backed a narrower plan, recommending boosters for Americans 65 and older and for those at high-risk of COVID-19. Committee members said the data showed the Pfizer vaccine offered strong protection against the virus, including the highly infectious delta variant, and that there was insufficient evidence the general public needed a third shot at this time. The FDA, which is not bound by the recommendation, is expected to decide the matter this week.

The 16 to 2 vote against a Pfizer booster for most adults receiving the vaccine represented a political setback for the Biden administration, which last month proposed that most Americans receive a booster eight months after receiving their second shot. That rollout was to begin this fall, in what the administration hoped would be an insurance policy to stem rising case counts and serious hospitalizations as the winter season approached. The panel's recommendation would make millions of Americans eligible under the high-risk category, including health care workers and first responders. But committee member Dr. Paul A. Offit of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia summed up the real challenge; "we need to vaccinate the unvaccinated," he said. A third dose would do little to get vaccine holdouts in the door, and it could complicate the messaging campaign in the hardest-hit states.

Biden's motivations may have been admirable, but the president should have supported a vaccination strategy only after public health experts reached a consensus on the best way forward. The back and forth created unnecessary confusion at a critical time, as some states including Florida struggled with a huge surge in new infections and hospitalizations. In that sense, the panel's move underscored the role that independent peer review must play in federal policymaking. And it was another reminder of how the scientific community is learning from COVID in real time.

The FDA's expected decision this week comes as Pfizer announced Monday that its vaccine works for children ages 5 to 11 and that it will seek U.S. authorization for this age group soon. While vaccines are available for anyone 12 and older, the authorized use for younger age groups is seen as critical for stemming pediatric infections, which have skyrocketed since the school year began.

The FDA has said it could evaluate the results of the child inoculation studies in a matter of weeks of Pfizer submitting them. The agency should make a priority of that review even as it finalizes a plan for boosters. And the president should continue playing his appropriate role as a vaccination advocate and a fair-minded administrator of COVID-related resources. That's the surest way to continue building public confidence in the vaccines and getting more Americans protected.

©2021 Tampa Bay Times

We must act now on climate change

By DIANA BERNSTEIN
Progressive Perspectives

Dr. Diana Bernstein (@db_climate) is a climate scientist and assistant research professor at the University of Southern Mississippi. This column was produced for The Progressive *magazine and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

As a climate scientist in the deep South, I am often asked whether climate change is real. My usual response is to say, "Look out the window."

As I type this in mid-September, 5.5 inches of rain have inundated our town, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, in six hours. Recently, Hurricane Ida—the 13th named storm of this season—ripped through the region, leaving at least 84 dead and an estimated $95 billion in damages in its wake from New Orleans to New England.

Contrary to stereotype, most of the Southerners I meet are interested in learning more about climate change. I tell them, as I do my college students, that extreme weather events like flash floods and hurricanes are linked to and worsened by climate change. So are the severe droughts and fires afflicting the West, as well as other disasters around the globe.

Several of my students were evacuated because of Hurricane Ida. Others went days without power. They understand that disasters of this kind are becoming the norm and will only worsen if we do not act now.

Betty Salisbury helps to clear her neighbor's yard in the wake of Hurricane Ida on September 2, 2021 in Hammond, Louisiana. SEAN RAYFORD/GETTY IMAGES/TNS

Two practical options for curtailing the worst effects of climate change are now being considered by Congress.

One, the Clean Electricity Performance Program, would pay utilities to shift away from fossil fuels and fine them for missing deadlines. It would significantly cut greenhouse gas emissions by nearly a gigaton by the year 2030, prevent an estimated 300,000 premature deaths from harmful air by 2050 and save $1.13 trillion in health costs.

The second, a set of clean energy tax credits, would incentivize wind and solar power, energy storage, carbon capture and other greatly needed clean energy technologies.

Both measures are included in the Democrats' $3.5 trillion budget reconciliation package, which is likely to be acted on in the coming weeks. Passage is hardly assured: Democrats can only afford to lose three votes from their ranks in the House, and none in the Senate.

Democratic Senator Joe Manchin, along with a couple moderate Democratic lawmakers, has signaled his opposition to both the Clean Electricity Performance Program and to the bill's overall $3.5 trillion price tag, which would come largely from corporations and the wealthy. He has also cast doubt on the need to eliminate fossil fuels—from whose producers, The Intercept reported, he has personally made more than $4.5 million.

Fossil fuels are the single biggest cause of global warming. According to the latest assessment report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, global carbon emissions must be reduced 45% by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050 to keep global warming under 1.5° C, the target set under the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Failing to achieve these goals could lead to widespread melting of sea ice, glaciers and permafrost; ocean acidification; an average rise of a meter or more in the global sea level; greatly increased extreme rainfall and drought; scorching heat waves; and

See WE MUST on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The ongoing pandemic breaks the promise of eternal American progress

By DAN RODRICKS
Baltimore Sun

One of the grand promises of America is what I've always understood to be a national commitment to progress. Inertia is unacceptable. Failure is not an option. The country will always learn from its mistakes, grow wiser and become exceptional in all things, from mail service to cancer treatment. We shall run miles ahead of other countries.

In farming and industry, in medicine and aerospace—you name it, we will build upon what earlier generations achieved. With public schools and world-leading universities, we will replace superstition and ignorance with science and enlightenment.

I am not sure how such inflated ideas got into my head. It might have been nationalist propaganda. Or maybe it was from growing up during the space race and the modern environmental movement. Or perhaps the notion of eternal progress came from my older brother, an accomplished scientist. Progress seems innate to science—discovery being the threshold to advances in the quality of our lives.

But the lingering pandemic has changed my view. While most Americans welcome medical progress and respect public health edicts, many others resent the whole thing as some sort of leftist plot against personal freedom—and there's far more of those misguided people than I ever suspected.

Look where we are.

This week, the number of Americans who have died from COVID-19 surpassed the toll from the 1918-1919 flu pandemic. The country was a lot smaller back then, with less than a third of the population we have now. Still, there's heavy symbolism in the number of American dead (675,000) from a communicable disease in the 21st century. That it matches the toll from a pandemic a century ago is not only tragic, it's shattering.

Americans who presumably know better resisted efforts at social distancing and resented edicts against public gatherings. Many still refuse to get vaccinated, question medical science as if they live in ancient times and, incredibly, allow their politics to interfere with their survival instincts. Under the flag of personal freedom, they continue to oppose the most effective medical practices, established over the last century, to save lives: social distancing, wearing masks, getting vaccinated.

Whatever happened to progress? And what happened to surrendering a little personal liberty for the greater good?

In America, a lot of progress was achieved long before most of us were born. There was a Progressive Era, starting in the late 19th century and extending for some 30 years into the 20th century. It was a time of political reforms but also great strides in public health. I go there, through books and journals, not only to gain understanding but to pay respects to a movement that led the way to a better country.

In Maryland, progressives were politically bipartisan. They were not progressive in all things—some of them were horribly racist—but most of the advances made during the Progressive Era have endured for the public welfare.

Progressives saw problems and wanted them solved. They wanted communities to stop dumping untreated sewage into rivers that led to the Chesapeake Bay. They wanted the state to monitor coal mining in the western counties for worker safety and health. The progressive period in Maryland brought workers' compensation, factory inspections and child labor laws. (Kids under 12 were not allowed to be employed, and children between 12 and 16 needed to obtain a permit to work.) The movement brought about state regulation of banks, the insurance industry and public utilities. It established oversight of the important but unregulated (and sometimes violent) Chesapeake oyster industry.

Maryland adopted compulsory school attendance for children. According to Robert Brugger's history, "Maryland: A Middle Temperament," the state established higher food safety standards and gave public health officials powers to control the spread of infectious diseases.

Baltimore mandated the pasteurization of milk; opened public baths for its poorest citizens; closed sweatshops, and started cleaning streets. The city banned spitting in public places to stop the spread of tuberculosis.

You might consider all of that low-hanging fruit. Who would object to clean drinking water? But not all reforms came easy, and a key to making them work was public acceptance—that is, people had to give up some individual liberties, like spitting on a streetcar or in a saloon, for the sake of others, and they did.

During that same period, public health authorities learned what practices would be needed to fight off a pandemic, and when one arrived in 1918, they proved effective. "Early and sustained imposition of gathering bans, school closures, and other social-distancing measures significantly reduced mortality rates," Nancy Tomes, a historian, wrote in a 2010 paper on the crisis.

But social distancing and lockdown measures were difficult to implement everywhere in a country that had become more populated, more mobile, connected and crowded.

A doctor, reflecting on the 1918-1919 influenza, called it "destroyer and teacher."

It's the teaching part that, 100 years on, we should ponder—that idea, again, of knowledge built on knowledge, progress built on progress. What doctors, virologists, epidemiologists learned from the 1918-1919 pandemic should have been honored, from the start, by those of us who enjoy the benefits of American life in the 21st Century.

That's what gets me—that so many in a nation that considers itself exceptional would fight and even ridicule a medical establishment that has vaccinated millions against deadly diseases, transplanted thousands of organs, made steady advances in treating cancer and saved countless lives.

For a generation born into climate change, hope isn't an option. Activism is

By DANIEL PROPP
Los Angeles Times

Daniel Propp is special assistant to the founding director at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University. @danieljpropp.

I was in high school when the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released its finalized "Fifth Assessment Report." For a week in 2014, the report occupied my computer screen, side by side with an unfinished college application essay.

IPCC reports are the most comprehensive accounts of how human activities influence the climate. In the seven years since the IPCC released its fifth report, I completed a bachelor's degree, spent a year in the workforce, completed a master's degree and began a career in energy policy. Over the same time, humanity emitted about 220 billion tons of CO2, more than the total emitted from the beginning of the Industrial Age to the end of World War II. So as the release of the IPCC's sixth assessment approached this year, I found myself dreading what it would reveal.

On Aug. 9, I found out. The latest report represented "a code red for humanity," the U.N. secretary-general said. All my fears, confirmed.

But the horror I anticipated never arrived. I combed through page after page of catastrophic projections with the same level of alarm I'd have reading a recipe for peach cobbler. At the end of the document, I closed the tab and opened an article about the Tokyo Olympics. Ashamed as I am to admit it, I felt nothing.

At the age of 25, I am of a generation of people who have been aware—terrifyingly, paralyzingly aware—of climate change for our entire lives. From the moment I began to take an interest in world affairs, I have been cognizant of a terrible danger beyond the horizon, a near insurmountable challenge that could throw the world I knew into chaos. In sixth grade, a close friend confessed to me that he had been losing sleep worrying about climate change. I told him I had too.

For me, and I suspect for my friend, the climate crisis has never been about hope. In my quarter-century on Earth, no great challenge—be it terrorism, disease or economic catastrophe—has gone unmet by division, bigotry and greed; why should climate change be any different? With each passing year, I have seen the window of opportunity to act grow ever narrower, all the while becoming more confident in my hopelessness.

But neither has the climate crisis evoked the fatalism that often accompanies hopelessness. Not once in my lifetime has the apparent inevitability of climate catastrophe overwhelmed my motivation to act on it. In my head, I am forever on a sinking ship, faced with the choice of passively drowning or swimming doggedly for shore. And so I swim, understanding I will probably drown, but certain that doing something is better than doing nothing.

Many in my generation approach the climate crisis through this confusing cocktail of pessimism and determination. With no hope of avoiding catastrophe, we nevertheless campaign tirelessly for this impossibility. We have seen no evidence that society will solve this problem, yet we act each day as if it might.

This is why I felt nothing reading the latest IPCC report. It held within its pages a simple confirmation of what my generation had already observed: a detailed catalog of repeated, inexcusable failures to deal with an ever-apparent crisis.

The report belatedly acknowledges an off-ramp. There is still, it reminds us, the possibility of limiting global warming to 1.5°C. Should humanity collectively commit to solving the problem, there remains a tiny chance of avoiding catastrophe.

Popular discourse parrots this approach. Politicians fighting for climate action obligatorily reframe the crisis as an opportunity. Reporters interviewing experts end each segment with the question, "What gives you hope?" (I am guilty of this.) Through it all, we are told a singular message: The only way to overcome the challenge of climate change is to hold out hope that we will do so.

This message is simplistic at best, condescending at worst. Younger generations consistently report pessimism and depression over the impending climate crisis. These same generations are leading the global wave of activism and electoral support for climate action. Through it all we have proved capable of holding two conflicting ideas in mind at once. On the one hand, we acknowledge the near inevitability of catastrophic climate change. On the other, we understand we must fight against it because, after all, what other option do we have?

Beyond hope there is more than despair. There is determination, realism and action. There is a generation raised amid the ravages of a changing climate making every effort—a constant effort—to prevent the inevitable. The ship may sink, but we are going to swim like hell toward shore.

WE MUST

From Page 10

rampant wildfires and tropical cyclones. In short, a far deadlier version of everything we've seen this summer.

Budget passage of these two measures is likely the last chance Americans have to forestall these effects. We don't have another decade to implement these measures and meet the 2050 goal. The climate window simply won't allow it.

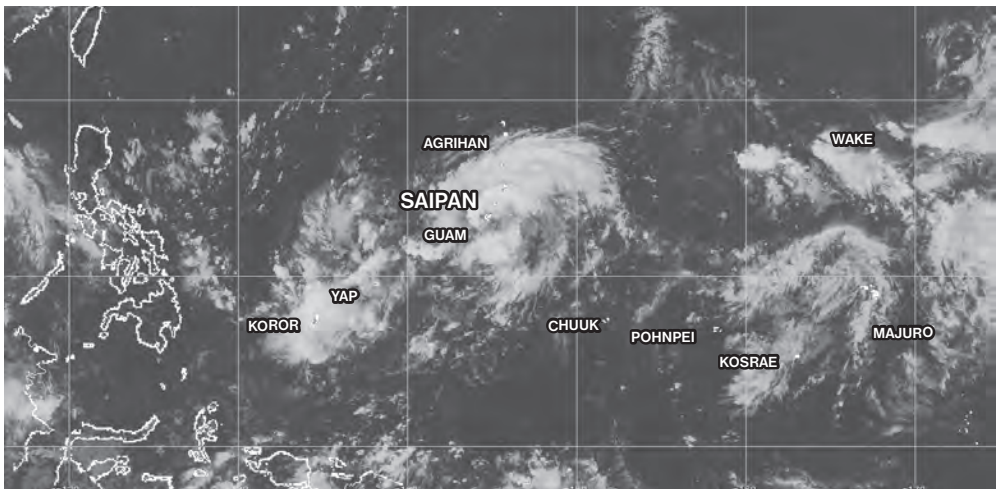
Let's start by passing the Clean Electricity Performance Program and clean energy tax credits. We cannot let our last chance to avoid catastrophe slip away.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Windy. Cloudy with occasional locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 25 to 35 mph shifting to the south 20 to 25 mph in the afternoon.	Breezy. Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
84º / 75º	84º / 75º	84º / 75º	84º / 75º	84º / 75º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:09 AM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate to strong northeast winds with occasional gale gusts prevail over the Marianas. The newly upgraded Tropical Depression 20W, formerly Invest 99W, continues to trudge towards the Mariana Islands and bringing locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly cloudy	82 / 90 °F
Palau	Partly sunny	81 / 87 °F
Yap	Partly sunny	80 / 91 °F
Chuuk	Afternoon clouds	79 / 89 °F
Pohnpei	Partly sunny	76 / 88 °F
Kosrae	Partly cloudy	83 / 88 °F
Majuro	Partly cloudy	82 / 87 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:08 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:30 AM	8:25 PM
Saturday	-	9:19 AM	9:04 PM
Sunday	-	10:09 AM	9:45 PM
Monday	-	11:00 AM	10:29 PM
Tuesday	-	11:52 AM	11:16 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly sunny	49 / 60 °F
Beijing	Morning clouds	64 / 83 °F
Hong Kong	Morning clouds	80 / 88 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	74 / 82 °F
London	Partly cloudy	68 / 87 °F
Los Angeles	Morning clouds	58 / 68 °F
Manila	Afternoon clouds	80 / 89 °F
Melbourne	Lots of rain	44 / 54 °F
Miami	High level clouds	79 / 87 °F
New York	Mostly sunny	63 / 81 °F
Osaka	Mostly cloudy	74 / 83 °F
Paris	Morning clouds	68 / 89 °F
Pusan	Morning clouds	70 / 78 °F
Rome	Partly cloudy	62 / 85 °F
Salem	Sunny	51 / 82 °F
San Francisco	Morning clouds	57 / 67 °F
Seoul	High level clouds	63 / 84 °F
Tokyo	Heavy rain	73 / 79 °F
Washington, DC	Morning clouds	63 / 85 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:38 AM	Low Tide	0.38
9:43 AM	High Tide	1.77
3:50 PM	Low Tide	0.76
9:20 PM	High Tide	1.76

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:45am	7:25am	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:45am	10:25am	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	2, 5
UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	9:10pm	4, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	3
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:00am	5:41am	1, 3, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:41am	2, 4, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	9:50pm	3:55am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:25pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	9:50pm	5:41am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	5:41am+1	7 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:41am+1	1, 3, 4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	3
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-006-21

DESIGN, PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SOLAR PANEL SERVICES AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting proposals from a qualified contractor to design, procure, install, commission and maintain a Ground and/or Roof-Interactive Photovoltaic System at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport as per this Statement of Work (SOW), Instruction to Proposers and associated Contract Documents, meeting all current federal, state and local government agencies' rules and regulations.

The CPA Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an invitation for bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the Authority because the Authority wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone, or that factors other than price, such as technical expertise and/or the quality of materials, should be considered in determining the successful contractor.

The Statement of Work (SOW) outlines the project's general requirements and may be picked up at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport beginning August 20, 2021 upon payment of $100.00 in cash, cashier's check, or credit card.

Project approach and costs must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, may be grounds for immediate disqualification of the Offeror's proposal package.

A **Pre-proposal** Conference will be held on Friday, September 10, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Airport Conference Room, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, to discuss the project work in detail. Attendance to the pre-proposal conference is **mandatory**. Proposals will only be accepted from proposers who attended this pre-proposal conference. A site inspection may be performed after the pre-proposal conference. However, site inspections should be coordinated with CPA's Master Electrician, Mr. Steve Koch at telephone number 670-237-6540 or 670-285-5624, or via email at skoch@cnmiports.com.

Questions shall be submitted in writing to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, or via email to Mr. Koch at skoch@cnmiports.com by no later than 5:00 p.m., September 15, 2021. Responses to questions or requests for information will be provided to all proposers who attend the mandatory pre-proposal conference.

Proposers shall submit one (1) original and four (4) copies of the proposals, sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"RFP for Solar Panel Installation and Management for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport".***

Proposals must be submitted by no later than **4:00 PM, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

Winning proposer shall be required to comply with 14 CFR 77.5 (c). FAA requires submittal of Alteration Form 7460-1 confirming analysis of no ocular impact to airport's ATCT cab.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: _____

NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

JOB DESCRIPTION

POSITION: **PROGRAM AIDE**
PAY-LEVEL: P.L. 22 / STEP 1-10
REPORTS TO: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION:
This is a non-exempt position responsible for the day-to-day administrative functions of the office and its programs. The Program Aide reports to the Executive Director and works within prescribed NMPASI standards, policies and procedures.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- ✓ At least a High School Diploma or its equivalence including a GED and other similar certificates;
- ✓ Must be proficient in computer usage including but not limited to word processing and spreadsheet applications;
- ✓ Must possess a valid CNMI driver's license; and
- ✓ Must be able to operate various office equipment including but not limited to telephones, faxes, and copier machines.

HOW TO APPLY:
Interested applicants may pick up a complete job description and application forms at the NMPASI office located on middle road approximately 100 yards north of the Gualo Rai traffic light intersection. Completed application packets must be submitted to the NMPASI Executive Director at the NMPASI Office. In order for applications to be considered they must include (1) a Cover Letter, (2) a Resumé, (3) Completed Application forms. Incomplete applications and/or applications which do not demonstrate that the applicant meets minimum qualifications as listed above or do not meet the deadline for submittal will not be considered. For further information, please feel free to contact Mr. James Rayphand at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] /(670) 287-0652 [message] or email at jrayphand@nmpasi.org. NMPASI is an EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

Deadline for applications will be on September 30, 2021 at 5pm.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-21-032

SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND DATA ACQUISITION (SCADA) FOR POWER PLANT NO. 1, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for a turn-key design and implementation (Design, Supply and Installation) of SCADA system at its Primary Power Plant (Power Plant No.1), Lower Base, Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The award of this project is under the Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one package.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-21-032, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System for Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. on October 13, 2021.** Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 22, 2021** to manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, CUC's Power Generation Manager via email richard.cano@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-21-036

Office Space Rental for CUC's Administrative Functions and Operations

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for Office Space Rental for CUC's Administrative Functions and Operations in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $25.00 for one package.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-21-036, Office Space Rental for CUC's Administrative Functions and Operations"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. on October 15, 2021.** Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 23, 2021** to Manny Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address, manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John C. Mafnas, Contracts Officer at john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Business

FDA backs Pfizer COVID-19 boosters for seniors, high-risk

By MATTHEW PERRONE, LAURAN NEERGAARD and MIKE STOBBE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Sept. 14, 2021, file photo, a syringe is prepared with the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at a clinic at the Reading Area Community College in Reading, Pa. AP

The U.S. moved a step closer Wednesday to offering booster doses of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine to senior citizens and others at high risk from the virus as the Food and Drug Administration signed off on the targeted use of extra shots.

The FDA authorized booster doses for Americans who are 65 and older, younger adults with underlying health conditions and those in jobs that put them at high risk for COVID-19. The ruling represents a drastically scaled back version of the Biden administration's sweeping plan to give third doses to nearly all American adults to shore up their protection amid the spread of the highly contagious delta variant.

However, more regulatory hurdles lie ahead before the dispensing of boosters can begin.

Advisers to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention opened a two-day meeting Wednesday to make their own, more specific recommendations about who should get the extra shots and when. And in their first day of discussions, some experts were so perplexed by the questions surrounding the rationale for boosters that they suggested putting off a decision for a month in hopes of more evidence.

The uncertainties were yet another reminder that the science surrounding boosters is more complicated than the Biden administration suggested when the president and his top aides rolled out their plan at the White House last month.

The FDA decision Wednesday was expected after the agency's own panel of advisers last week overwhelmingly rejected the Biden plan. The panel instead recommended boosters only for those most vulnerable to severe cases of COVID-19.

FDA acting commissioner Dr. Janet Woodcock said in a statement that the FDA authorization would allow for boosters in health care workers, teachers, grocery workers and those in homeless shelters or prisons.

"As we learn more about the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines, including the use of a booster dose, we will continue to evaluate the rapidly changing science and keep the public informed," Woodcock said.

Under the FDA authorization, vaccinated Americans are eligible for a third dose six months after receiving their second Pfizer shot. That's different than the Biden proposal announced in August, which called for boosters after eight months.

"Today's FDA decision is a major step forward in our effort to provide Americans with additional protection from COVID-19," White House press secretary Jen Psaki tweeted Wednesday night. "We have been preparing for weeks to administer booster shots to eligible Americans and are ready to do so following CDC's final recommendation later this week."

The timing of the FDA decision was highly unusual given that the agency typically takes action before the CDC convenes its own experts.

The CDC panelists heard a series of presentations Wednesday outlining the knotty state of science on boosters. On one hand, the COVID-19 vaccines continue to offer strong protection against severe illness, hospitalization and death.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

United Airlines say 97% of US employees have been vaccinated

DALLAS (AP)—United Airlines says more than 97% of its U.S.-based employees are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 now that there is less than a week before a deadline to get the shots or get fired. The airline said Wednesday that the new figure does not include a "small number" of employees who are seeking a medical or religious exemption from vaccination. "Vaccine requirements work," United said in a memo to employees. Six United employees sued United this week claiming that the airline is discriminating against employees who get exemptions from the vaccine mandate by placing them on unpaid leave.

California 1st to set quota limits for retailers like Amazon

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—California on Wednesday became the first state to bar mega-retailers from firing warehouse workers for missing quotas that interfere with bathroom and rest breaks under a new law signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom that grew from Amazon's drive to speed goods to consumers more quickly. The measure also bars Amazon, the online retail giant, and similar companies from disciplining workers for following health and safety laws and allows employees to sue to suspend unsafe quotas or reverse retaliation. The bill applies to all warehouse distribution centers, though proponents were driven by Amazon's dominance. "We cannot allow corporations to put profit over people," Newsom, a Democrat, said in a news release announcing he had signed the law.

Fed: On track to slow support for economy later this year

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell signaled Wednesday that the Fed plans to announce as early as November that it will start withdrawing the extraordinary support it unleashed after the coronavirus paralyzed the economy 18 months ago. Powell said that if the job market maintained its steady improvement, the Fed would likely begin slowing the pace of its monthly bond purchases. Those purchases have been intended to lower longer-term loan rates to encourage borrowing and spending. "I think if the economy continues to progress broadly in line with expectations," the Fed chair said at a news conference, "I think we can easily move ahead at the next meeting" in November. At the same time, the Fed's policymaking committee indicated that it expects to start raising its benchmark rate sometime next year—earlier than the members had envisioned three months ago and a sign that they're concerned that high inflation pressures may persist. Powell stressed, though, that a rate hike would occur only after the Fed had ended its bond purchases, a process he said would likely last through the middle of next year.

After Northeast flooding, insurance woes swamp residents

NEW YORK (AP)—After being pummeled by two tropical storms that submerged basements, cracked home foundations and destroyed belongings, Northeastern U.S. residents still in the throes of recovery are being hit with another unexpected blow: Thousands of families are now swamped with financial losses because they didn't have flood insurance. Most of those caught off guard by the intense downpours from the remnants of Hurricane Ida and Tropical Storm Henri lived in areas outside of coastal floodplains, making flood insurance an afterthought for most of the working-class families whose neighborhoods were among the hardest hit. "When we called the insurance company, the first thing they told us is that they don't provide any assistance for anything that's caused by a storm. And they left it at that," Amit Shivprasad said, his rising voice echoing frustrations shared among his neighbors in the Jamaica section of Queens.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor — Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Governor

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

This ad is paid for by NMHC funds

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate Low Incoming Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The LIHTC is available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which include project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists. There are no changes from the previous QAP which included capital needs assessment, limiting developer fees, and income averaging.

NMHC will conduct a public hearing to solicit comments from the public on 10/11/21, 9:00 am at NMHC's Main Office in Garapan, Saipan. Copies of the draft 2021-2022 Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) are also available at NMHC's Main Office in Garapan, Saipan and on our website at www.nmhcgov.net.

Interested persons wishing to express their views on the QAP may do so either by attending the public hearing or by submitting comments to NMHC by 4:30 p.m. on 10/08/21. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance. In compliance with the CNMI COVID-19 guidelines, face-masks must be worn, social distancing will be enforced, and not more than ten (10) people will be allowed in the conference room during the course of the meeting.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its quarterly board meeting on ***Friday, September 24, 2021 at 8:00a.m.*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Governor's Office Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes - (from June 11, 2021)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairman's Report
VII. Director's Report
- Financial Report
- NCEES 2021 Annual Business ZOOM Meeting
- NCARB MBE Committee Member
- Update on the Appraisal Regulations Ad Hoc Committee
- Current Engineers, Architects, Land Surveyors, and Landscape Architects Regulations

VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
X. Old Business
XI. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
XII. New Business
XIII. Applications for Board's Review
XIV. Miscellaneous Business
XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

CEDA
COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 | Fax: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

September 24, 2021

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF PUBLIC HEARING ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT AND REBATE OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS, THE PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED TODAY, AT 5:00 P.M., AT THE NEW CAFETERIA BUILDING, NEXT TO BUILDING D, MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL, BWAAY LANE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, IS CANCELLED.

THE PUBLIC HEARING IS RESCHEDULED TO FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021, AT 5:00 P.M., SAME VENUE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

Nation

COVID has killed about as many Americans as the 1918-19 flu

By CARLA K. JOHNSON
AP MEDICAL WRITER

COVID-19 has now killed about as many Americans as the 1918-19 Spanish flu pandemic did—approximately 675,000.

The U.S. population a century ago was just one-third of what it is today, meaning the flu cut a much bigger, more lethal swath through the country. But the COVID-19 crisis is by any measure a colossal tragedy in its own right, especially given the incredible advances in scientific knowledge since then and the failure to take maximum advantage of the vaccines available this time.

"Big pockets of American society—and, worse, their leaders—have thrown this away," medical historian Dr. Howard Markel of the University of Michigan said of the opportunity to vaccinate everyone eligible by now.

Like the Spanish flu, the coronavirus may never entirely disappear from our midst. Instead, scientists hope it becomes a mild seasonal bug as human immunity strengthens through vaccination and repeated infection. That could take time.

"We hope it will be like getting a cold, but there's no guarantee," said Emory University biologist Rustom Antia, who suggests an optimistic scenario in which this could happen over a few years.

For now, the pandemic still has the United States and other parts of the world firmly in its jaws.

While the delta-fueled surge in infections may have peaked, U.S. deaths are running at over 1,900 a day on average, the highest level since early March, and the country's overall toll topped 675,000 Monday, according to the count kept by Johns Hopkins University, though the real number is believed to be higher.

Winter may bring a new surge, with the University of Washington's influential model projecting an additional 100,000 or so Americans will die of COVID-19 by Jan. 1, which would bring the overall U.S. toll to 776,000.

The 1918-19 influenza pandemic killed 50 million victims globally at a time when the world had one-quarter the population it does now. Global deaths from COVID-19 now stand at more than 4.6 million.

The Spanish flu's U.S. death toll is a rough guess, given the incomplete records of the era and the poor scientific understanding of what caused the illness. The 675,000 figure comes from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The ebbing of COVID-19 could happen if the virus progressively weakens as it mutates and more and more humans' immune systems learn to attack it. Vaccination and surviving infection are the main ways the immune system improves. Breast-fed infants also gain some immunity from their mothers.

Under that optimistic scenario, schoolchildren would get mild illness that trains their immune systems. As they grow up, the children would carry the immune response memory, so that when they are old and vulnerable, the coronavirus would be no more dangerous than cold viruses.

The same goes for today's vaccinated teens: Their immune systems would get stronger through the shots and mild infections.

No signs of Petito's boyfriend after four days of searching

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Search teams found nothing of note Wednesday at a Florida wilderness park where they have spent days looking for the boyfriend of Gabby Petito, the young woman who authorities say was killed while on a cross-country trip with him.

The search resumed Wednesday morning at the 24,000-acre (9,700-hectare) Carlton Reserve park and ended just before dark, North Port police spokesperson Joshua Taylor said. Investigators say Brian Laundrie's parents told them he had gone there after returning home without Petito on Sept. 1.

It marked the fourth day of searching in the Carlton Reserve, with operations suspended Monday while the FBI searched the nearby Laundrie home for evidence.

The search of the reserve was set to resume Thursday morning, Taylor said in an email.

The outdoors search includes thousands of acres of forbidding, swampy subtropical terrain replete with alligators, snakes, bobcats, coyotes, turkey, deer and many other wild creatures. There are more than 100 miles (160 kilometers) of hiking and horseback riding trails, plus numerous camping areas and rivers.

The Sarasota County Sheriff's Office brought in a diver unit called SURF, or Sheriff's Underwater Recovery Force, to perform a more specialized search for evidence.

COVID-19 creates dire US shortage of teachers, school staff

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—One desperate California school district is sending flyers home in students' lunchboxes, telling parents it's "now hiring." Elsewhere, principals are filling in as crossing guards, teachers are being offered signing bonuses and schools are moving back to online learning.

Now that schools have welcomed students back to classrooms, they face a new challenge: a shortage of teachers and staff the likes of which some districts say they have never seen.

In this Aug. 12, 2021, file photo, a student gets help with his mask from transitional kindergarten teacher Annette Cuccarese during the first day of classes at Tustin Ranch Elementary School in Tustin, Calif. AP

Public schools have struggled for years with teacher shortages, particularly in math, science, special education and languages. But the coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated the problem. The stress of teaching in the COVID-19 era has triggered a spike in retirements and resignations. Schools also need to hire staffers like tutors and special aides to make up for learning losses and more teachers to run online school for those not ready to return.

Teacher shortages and difficulties filling openings have been reported in Tennessee, New Jersey and South Dakota, where one district started the school year with 120 teacher vacancies. Across Texas, the main districts in Houston, Waco and elsewhere reported hundreds of teaching vacancies at the start of the year.

Several schools nationwide have had to shut classrooms because of a lack of teachers.

In Michigan, Eastpointe Community Schools abruptly moved its middle school back to remote learning this week because it doesn't have enough teachers. The small district north of Detroit has 43 positions vacant—a quarter of its teaching staff. When several middle school teachers resigned without notice last week, the district shifted to online classes to avoid sending in unqualified substitutes, spokeswoman Caitlyn Kienitz said.

A NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS SOCIAL SERVICE
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

KARIDAT
Catholic Charities - Diocese of Chalan Kanoa

(1) SHELTER WORKER - PART TIME
(1) SHELTER WORKER - FULL TIME

For more information, job description and application can be obtained from Karidat main office at Sister Remedios Community Center, Chalan Kanoa.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Complete application form, copy of diploma, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid CNMI driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021 AT 4:00PM

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
MVA IS HIRING!!!

JVA #	VACANT POSITION	OPENING DATE 9/14/2021	CLOSING DATE 9/28/2021
JVA#21-004:	ACCOUNTANT IV (SAIPAN)		
JVA#21-005:	TOUR GUIDE CERTIFICATION MANAGER (SAIPAN)		
JVA#21-006:	TRADES TECHNICIAN I (TINIAN) (3 POSITIONS)		
JVA #	**VACANT POSITION**	**OPENING DATE 9/15/2021**	**CLOSING DATE 9/29/2021**
JVA#21-007:	GRAPHIC ARTIST (SAIPAN)		

INTERESTED PERSONS MAY CONTACT THE MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY OFFICE AT (670) 664-3200/01 OR VISIT WWW.MYMARIANAS.COM/ANNOUNCEMENTS/ FOR MORE DETAILS.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION TO BID
ITB21-GOV-168

SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM OCTOBER 8, 2021

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION ROOF REPAIR & COATING

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) are soliciting sealed bids for the *Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Roof Repair & Coating* in Navy Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available on **September 10, 2021** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours. **This project will require US Treasury Listed Payment and Performance Bonds.**

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at Conference Room No. 3 at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation located in Navy Hill, Saipan, CNMI at **10:00 AM ChST September 27, 2021.** Proposers may request to participate via phone call or virtually five (5) days prior to the meeting scheduled. All attendees are required to use a face mask and exercise social distancing throughout the duration of the meeting.

Questions regarding this ITB may be sumitted via email to Ms. Sunny Aldan at sunny.aldan@gov.mp no later than **4:30 PM ChST October 1, 2021.** All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Director of Procurement Services no later than **10:00 AM October 8, 2021**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION TO BID
ITB21-GOV-169

SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM OCTOBER 15, 2021

RENOVATION OF BUILDING 1365 FOR THE COMMONWEALTH DISABILITY CENTER

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) are soliciting sealed bids for the *Renovation of Building 1365 for the Commonwealth Disability Center* in Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only on **September 17, 2021** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours. **This project will require US Treasury Listed Payment and Performance Bonds.**

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the project site, Building 1365, located in Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI at **10:00 AM ChST October 4, 2021.** Proposers may request to participate via phone call or virtually five (5) days prior to the meeting scheduled. All attendees are required to use a face mask and exercise social distancing throughout the duration of the meeting.

Questions regarding this ITB may be sumitted via email to Ms. Sunny Aldan at sunny.aldan@gov.mp no later than **4:30 PM ChST October 8, 2021.** All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Director of Procurement Services no later than **10:00 AM October 15, 2021.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Francisco C Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

Asia

Front to back; HNLMS *Evertsen*, JS *Izumo*, HMS *Defender*, HMS Q*ueen Elizabeth*, HMCS *Winnipeg*, JS *Ise*, RFA *Tidespring*. UK *Royal Navy Carrier Strike Group 21*, HMS *Queen Elizabeth*, HMS *Defender*, RFA *Tidespring* and HNLMS *Evertsen* from CSG21 sails with Japanese ships JS *Izumo* and JS Ise along with the Canadian ship HMCS *Winnipeg* in the Pacific Ocean, Sept. 2021. AP

Tensions grow as US, allies strengthen Indo-Pacific ties

BANGKOK (AP)—With increasingly strong talk in support of Taiwan, a new deal to supply Australia with nuclear submarines, and the launch of a European strategy for greater engagement in the Indo-Pacific, the U.S. and its allies are becoming growingly assertive in their approach toward a rising China.

China has bristled at the moves, and the growing tensions between Beijing and Washington prompted U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the weekend to implore President Joe Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping to repair their "completely dysfunctional" relationship, warning they risk dividing the world.

As the U.N. General Assembly opened Tuesday, both leaders chose calming language, with Biden insisting "we are not seeking a new Cold War or a world divided into rigid blocs," and Xi telling the forum that "China has never, and will never invade or bully others or seek hegemony."

But the underlying issues have not changed, with China building up its military outposts as it presses its maritime claims over critical sea lanes, and the U.S. and its allies growing louder in their support of Taiwan, which China claims as part of its territory, and deepening military cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

On Friday, Biden hosts the leaders of Japan, India and Australia for an in-person Quadrilateral Security Dialogue for broad talks including the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, but also how to keep the Indo-Pacific, a vast region spanning from India to Australia, "free and open," according to the White House.

It comes a week after the dramatic announcement that Australia would be dropping a contract for conventional French submarines in favor of an Anglo-American offer for nuclear-powered vessels, a bombshell that overshadowed the unveiling of the European Union's strategy to boost political and defense ties in the Indo-Pacific.

"One thing is certain, that everyone is pivoting toward the Indo-Pacific," said Garima Mohan, an Asia program fellow with the German Marshall Fund think tank.

As partners pursue moves that play to their own strengths and needs, however, the past week has underscored the lack of coordination as a networked security strategy develops, she said.

"Not everyone has the same threat assessment of China," she said in a telephone interview from Berlin.

The EU policy emphasizes the need for dialogue with Beijing, to encourage "China to play its part in a peaceful and thriving Indo-Pacific region," while at the same time proposing an "enhanced naval presence" and expanded security cooperation with regional partners.

It also notes China's increased military buildup, and that "the display of force and increasing tensions in regional hotspots such as in the South and East China Sea, and in the Taiwan Strait, may have a direct impact on European security and prosperity."

Germany, which has close economic ties to China, got a wake-up call last week when China rejected its request for a port call for the frigate Bavaria, which is currently conducting maneuvers in the Indo-Pacific.

"China is telling them this inclusive approach is not going to work, so in a way it's a rude awakening for Berlin," Mohan said. "You have to take a position, you can't have your cake and eat it too, and if you have an Indo-Pacific strategy ... you can't make it neutral."

Other EU countries, most notably France, have also sent naval assets for exercises in the Indo-Pacific, and Britain has had a whole carrier strike group conducting exercises for several months as London pursues the new tilt toward the region recommended by a recent British government review of defense and foreign policy.

China's Foreign Ministry said after rejecting the Bavaria's port call that it remained "willing to carry out friendly exchanges with Germany on the basis of mutual respect and mutual trust," but made clear it was displeased with the increased naval presence in the region.

"Individual powers... have repeatedly dispatched military aircraft and warships to the South China Sea for some time in the name of exercising freedom of navigation to flex muscle, stir up trouble and deliberately provoke conflicts on maritime issues," spokesman Zhao Lijian said. "China's determination to safeguard national and territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests is unwavering, and will continue to properly handle differences with the countries concerned through consultations and negotiations."

World

WORLD BRIEFS

'My whole life in a van': Islanders flee Spanish volcano

TODOQUE, Canary Islands (AP)—A wall of lava up to 12 meters (40 feet) high bore down on a Spanish village Wednesday as islanders scrambled to save what they could before the molten rock swallowed up their homes following a volcanic eruption. The lava, which was still spewing from Sunday's eruption in the Canary Islands archipelago off northwest Africa, advanced slowly down hillsides of La Palma to the coast, where Todoque was the last village between it and the Atlantic Ocean. Residents hoping to save some belongings queued up so they could be escorted briefly into the village. In the distance, the lava grew thicker and slowed down to 4 meters (13 feet) per hour after reaching a plain. Smoke poured out of its leading edge as it destroyed everything it touched. Experts said the lava could either take several days to cover the remaining 2 kilometers (1.25 miles) to the sea or it could instead spread more widely on land, burying more residential areas and farmland.

Italy: Uncle of teen who refused arranged marriage detained

ROME (AP)—The uncle of an 18-year-old woman who disappeared months ago in Italy after refusing an arranged marriage in Pakistan was detained Wednesday on the outskirts of Paris, according to Italian authorities who fear the teenager may be dead. Saman Abbas was last seen in late April by neighbors in the vicinity of her family's home in the farm town of Novellara, near the city of Reggio Emilia. A few days later, a Milan airport video captured her parents, who had reportedly been pressuring Abbas to marry a man she had never met, hurrying to catch a flight to Pakistan. Italian Prosecutor Isabella Chiesi told reporters that Paris police, acting on a European warrant issued in connection with the woman's disappearance, detained the uncle in an apartment where he had been living with other people. Italian police said his social media use played a part in investigators tracking him down.

UN: In war, 16 million Yemenis 'marching' toward starvation

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The head of the U.N. food agency is warning that 16 million people in Yemen "are marching towards starvation" and says food rations for millions in the war-torn nation will be cut in October unless new funding arrives. David Beasley said Wednesday at a high-level meeting on Yemen's humanitarian crisis that the United States, Germany, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and other donors stepped up when the World Food Program was running out of money earlier this year and "because of that we averted famine and catastrophe." WFP is running out of money again and without new funding reductions will be made in rations for 3.2 million people in October and for 5 million by December, he said. At a virtual pledging conference co-hosted by Sweden and Switzerland on March 1, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed for $3.85 billion for Yemen this year. But donors pledged less than half the amount—$1.7 billion, which the U.N. chief called "disappointing." In the last six months, the total has grown to just over half the amount required.

6 bodies thought to be those of Mexican Indigenous men found

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Investigators in northern Mexico said Wednesday they have found six sets of skeletal remains and are performing forensic tests to see if they are some of the 10 men from Mexico's most persecuted Indigenous group who were abducted in mid-July. The crime scene in the desert of the northern state of Sonora is likely to be a major embarrassment for President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who has made it his special project to bring justice to the Yaqui Indigenous community. The Mexican leader had invited U.S. President Joe Biden to attend a Sept. 28 ceremony to ask forgiveness of the Yaquis for a government campaign to exterminate or exile them around 1900; some Yaquis live in the United States. The U.S. is reportedly sending Secretary of State Antony Blinken instead. There was no information on the other four missing Yaqui men, who have not been seen since July 15. It may be the largest killing of Indigenous people in Mexico since 15 people were bludgeoned to death in a village dispute in Oaxaca state in 2020.

Researchers detect malaria resistant to key drug in Africa

LONDON (AP)—Scientists have found evidence of a resistant form of malaria in Uganda, a worrying sign that the top drug used against the parasitic disease could ultimately be rendered useless without more action to stop its spread. Researchers in Uganda analyzed blood samples from patients treated with artemesinin, the primary medicine used for malaria in Africa in combination with other drugs. They found that by 2019, nearly 20% of the samples had genetic mutations suggesting the treatment was ineffective. Lab tests showed it took much longer for those patients to get rid of the parasites that cause malaria. Drug-resistant forms of malaria were previously detected in Asia, and health officials have been nervously watching for any signs in Africa, which accounts for more than 90% of the world's malaria cases. Some isolated drug-resistant strains of malaria have previously been seen in Rwanda. "Our findings suggest a potential risk of cross-border spread across Africa," the researchers wrote in the New England Journal of Medicine, which published the study on Wednesday.

Afghan Taliban's new UN envoy urges quick recognition

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Taliban's newly appointed envoy to the United Nations on Wednesday urged quick world recognition of Afghanistan's new rulers even as the World Health Organization raised the alarm of an impending health care disaster in the war-wracked country. The humanitarian crisis is one of the many challenges the Taliban face since their takeover of Afghanistan last month, including renewed threats from the militant Islamic State group, which recently stepped up its attacks, targeting members of the Taliban in its stronghold in the country's east. In an emergency measure, the U.N. aid coordinator Martin Griffiths released $45 million in life-saving support Wednesday for Afghanistan from the world body's emergency fund. The World Health Organization said Afghanistan's health system is on the brink of collapse and that urgent action is needed. The statement followed a recent visit to Kabul by a WHO team led by the agency's director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who also met with Taliban leaders and others. "The country faces an imminent humanitarian catastrophe," WHO said, adding that thousands of health facilities are without funding for medical supplies and salaries for health staff.

Off The Wall

Lucky cat: Falling feline gets saved at Miami football game

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—The most notable catch in Saturday's game between No. 22 Miami and Appalachian State didn't even happen on the field.

Wasn't even a football. It was a cat.

The animal somehow got into Hard Rock Stadium, then got caught by one of its paws off the facade of the upper deck in the first quarter. It eventually fell to the lower level of the stadium, where fans using an American flag as a makeshift net of sorts were able to safely catch it before it was carried off to safety.

"They were trying to grab it from above and they couldn't reach it but they were scaring it downward," said Craig Cromer, a facilities manager at the University of Miami and season-ticket holder who with his wife Kimberly brings the flag to each home game. "It hung there for a little while with its two front paws, then one paw, then I was like, 'Oh my goodness, it's coming soon.'"

That's when the Cromers unhooked the flag from the ties they use to keep it on a railing and hoped for the best. The petrified cat fell, bounced a bit off the flag and eventually was secured by some in the nearby student section before being brought away by stadium security workers.

Miami coach Manny Diaz said he learned of the cat incident postgame. The Hurricanes held on Saturday, topping Appalachian State 25-23.

No bull: Scientists potty train cows to use 'MooLoo'

Turns out cows can be potty trained as easily as toddlers. Maybe easier.

It's no bull. Scientists put the task to the test and 11 out of 16 cows learned to use the "MooLoo" when they had to go.

Just like some parents, the researchers used a sweet treat to coax the cows to push through a gate and urinate in a special pen. And it took only 15 days to train the young calves. Some kids take quite a bit longer.

"The cows are at least as good as children, age 2 to 4 years, at least as quick," said study senior author Lindsay Matthews, an animal behavioral scientist at New Zealand's University of Auckland who worked with colleagues on the tests at an indoor animal research lab in Germany.

What started with a half-in-jest question on a New Zealand radio talk show about the very real problem of livestock waste resulted in a serious study published Monday in the journal Current Biology. And it wasn't just a "wow, this could be fun" academic question. Massive amounts of urine waste is a serious environmental issue, Matthews said.

Urine contains nitrogen, and when mixed with feces becomes ammonia, which is an environmental issue with acid rain and other problems, Matthews said. It can also taint the water with nitrates and create the airborne pollutant nitrous oxide, he said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Florida man wins $1 million the day he opened his auto shop

CALLAHAN, Fla. (AP)—A Florida man won $1 million in a lottery game the same day he and his wife opened an auto repair shop. Brian Woodle, 46, bought the $5 Gold Rush Supreme scratch-off ticket from a Circle K in Callahan. "I love working on vehicles and it has always been my dream to own my own repair shop," Woodle said in a news release sent by the Florida Lottery. "At the end of our first day, I stopped by Circle K to get a few things and picked up a Lottery ticket; just like that we won a million bucks!" He selected to receive a one-time, lump-sum payment of $880,000, the lottery said. The Circle K store will receive a $2,000 bonus commission for selling the winning ticket. Callahan is near Jacksonville on Florida's Atlantic Coast.

North Carolina man wins three lottery jackpots at same store

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—A North Carolina man who bought scratch-off tickets from the same convenience store over four years is celebrating his third big prize, lottery officials said. The N.C. Education Lottery says in a news release that Terry Splawn of Concord continued his run of good luck on Monday when his $20 ticket produced a $100,000 win. After state and federal taxes, Splawn took home close to $71,000, the news release said. In April 2017, Splawn bought a ticket from Sam's Mini Stop in Concord and won $1 million, according to the news release. Almost two years later, he went to the store again, bought another scratch-off ticket and won another million-dollar prize, lottery officials said. "This is rare, but not impossibly rare," said Jan Hannig, a UNC-Chapel Hill statistics professor, of the odds of the same person winning two $1 million lottery prizes. She made her comment to The Charlotte Observer.

German town seeks owner of baby ostrich found in local park

BERLIN (AP) — Is anyone missing an ostrich? An animal shelter says it is looking for the owner of an ostrich chick that was found in the German town of Krefeld late Friday. German news agency dpa reported Saturday that passers-by called the fire service after catching the 1.4-meter (4-foot-6) -tall bird in a town park. A vet found the 4-to-5-month-old chick to be in good health, dpa reported. Krefeld Zoo said the bird wasn't one of theirs.

Passing helicopter rescues man harassed by bear in Alaska

NOME, Alaska (AP) — A miner who said he was harassed by a bear for seven straight nights in the tundra near Nome was rescued when a passing Coast Guard helicopter spotted the SOS, an internationally recognized sign for help, on top of his cabin. The man, who was not identified by the Coast Guard in a statement, was taken to waiting rescue personnel in Nome. The helicopter crew was flying from Kotzebue to Kodiak July 16 when it saw the SOS sign on top of the building. The crew circled back over the mining camp and saw a man waving two arms in the air, another recognized sign of distress, the Coast Guard statement said. The man requested medical assistance after the helicopter landed, saying he had been attacked by a bear a few days earlier. The man appeared to have a leg injury and bruising on his torso, the Coast Guard said. The man said the bear had returned to his camp and harassed him every night for the previous week, according to the statement. Friends the same day the man was found had reported him overdue when he hadn't returned to Nome.

Science & Technology

Births decline in pandemic, but may have turned corner

In this April 6, 2020 file photo, cots and cribs are arranged at the Mountain America Expo Center in Sandy, Utah, as an alternate care site or for hospital overflow amid the COVID-19 pandemic. AP

While there has been a decline in births in the U.S. during the pandemic, a new report released Tuesday by the U.S. Census Bureau suggests the drop may have turned a corner last March as births started rebounding.

The decline in births was most noticeable at the end of 2020 and beginning of 2021. In December 2020, births in the U.S. were down 7.7% from the previous year, and they were down 9.4% last January compared to the previous January.

Births continued to be down 2.8% in February from the previous year, but in March births barely declined, only 0.15%, compared to March 2020, when the new coronavirus was declared a national emergency.

"This trend suggests that some people who postponed having babies last year had them this year," said Anne Morse, a Census Bureau demographer in the report. "The winter decrease in births may have been prompted by couples who consciously chose to delay having children amid the uncertainty of the pandemic. It may also have been influenced by stress or limited physical interaction with a sexual partner."

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in May that U.S. birth rate fell 4% last year, the largest single-year decrease in nearly 50 years.

The U.S. isn't alone in experiencing declines in births, followed by a slight rebound in the early part of 2021, according to the report. Twenty-one out of 30 countries with available monthly data had fewer births in December 2020 than in 2019 but more births in March 2021 than in March 2020.

Spain had more births in March 2021 than in March 2020, and Germany had more births in March 2021 than in any other March in the past 20 years. The report noted, though, that different countries have different seasonal cycles for births. In the U.S., births typically increase in the spring and peak in the summer, but then they decline in the fall and are lowest in the winter.

It's still probably too soon to determine if births will still go in an upward year-over-year projection given the herky-jerky nature of pandemic recovery. After all, the babies born in the U.S. last March were likely conceived in June 2020 when spring lockdowns seemed to be easing up. But that optimism was soon met with the summer surge of 2020.

"It is still too soon to make broad conclusions about the pandemic's effect on U.S. birth trends," the report said. "But the data so far indicate there was a temporary drop in births amid the pandemic after accounting for other factors that existed before the pandemic—declining births and seasonality." ***(AP)***

Fossil leaves may reveal climate in dinosaurs' era

WASHINGTON (AP)—Richard Barclay opens a metal drawer in archives of the Smithsonian Natural History Museum containing fossils that are nearly 100 million years old. Despite their age, these rocks aren't fragile. The geologist and botanist handles them with casual ease, placing one in his palm for closer examination.

Embedded in the ancient rock is a triangular leaf with rounded upper lobes. This leaf fell off a tree around the time that T-rex and triceratops roamed prehistoric forests, but the plant is instantly recognizable. "You can tell this is ginkgo, it's a unique shape," said Barclay. "It hasn't changed much in many millions of years."

What's also special about ginkgo trees is that their fossils often preserve actual plant material, not simply a leaf's impression. And that thin sheet of organic matter may be key to understanding the ancient climate system—and the possible future of our warming planet.

But Barclay and his team first need to crack the plant's code to read information contained in the ancient leaf.

"Ginkgo is a pretty unique time capsule," said Peter Crane, a Yale University paleobotanist. As he wrote in "Ginkgo," his book on the plant, "It is hard to imagine that these trees, now towering above cars and commuters, grew up with the dinosaurs and have come down to us almost unchanged for 200 million years."

If a tree fell in an ancient forest, what can it tell scientists today?

"The reason scientists look back in the past is to understand what's coming in the future," said Kevin Anchukaitis, a climate researcher at the University of Arizona. "We want to understand how the planet has responded in the past to large-scale changes in climate—how ecosystems changed, how ocean chemistry and sea levels changed, how forests worked."

Of particular interest to scientists are "hothouse" periods when they believe carbon levels and temperatures were significantly higher than today. One such time occurred during the late Cretaceous period (66 million to 100 million years ago), the last era of the dinosaurs before a meteor slammed into Earth and most species went extinct.

Learning more about hothouse climates also gives scientists valuable data to test the accuracy of climate models for projecting the future, says Kim Cobb, a climate scientist at Georgia Institute of Technology.

Life & Style

Netflix buys Wonka author Dahl's catalog

LONDON (AP)—Netflix has acquired the works of Roald Dahl, the late British author of celebrated children's books such as "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."

The video streaming giant said Wednesday that it acquired the Roald Dahl Story Co., which manages the rights to the author's characters and stories. No financial terms were disclosed.

The deal builds on a partnership struck in 2018 to create a slate of animated TV series, under which "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" is getting a reboot by Academy Award winning filmmaker Taika Waititi and Netflix is working with Sony on an adaptation of "Matilda the Musical."

The new deal paves the way for Netflix to bring all of the author's back catalogue to screens.

"These projects opened our eyes to a much more ambitious venture—the creation of a unique universe across animated and live action films and TV, publishing, games, immersive experiences, live theatre, consumer products and more," Netflix Co-CEO Ted Sarandos and Luke Kelly, managing director of the Roald Dahl Story Co. and Dahl's grandson, said in a joint statement.

Dahl died in 1990 at the age of 74 but his books, which also include "The BFG," "The Twits" and "Fantastic Mr. Fox," remain popular with young readers, with more than 300 million copies sold worldwide and translations in 63 languages.

Johnny Depp: 'Not one of you' is safe with 'cancel culture'

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain (AP)—Taking center stage in a prestigious Spanish film festival to receive a top career award, actor Johnny Depp presented himself as a victim of the "cancel culture" that, he said, has spread across the cinema industry.

US actor Johny Deep after a photocall at the 69th San Sebastian Film Festival, in San Sebastian, northern Spain, Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021. AP

Depp was addressing questions on Wednesday by reporters at the San Sebastian International Film Festival about the loss of Hollywood's favor for new roles ever since his ex-wife, actress Amber Heard, went public with allegations of domestic violence against him.

A British judge last year found the allegations to be "substantially correct."

"It's a very complex situation, this cancel-culture, or this instant rush to judgment based on essentially what amounts to polluted air," the 58-year-old actor responded.

"It's got so far out of hand that I can assure you, no one is safe. Not one of you, so long as someone is willing to say one thing."

Female filmmakers and other groups had criticized the organizer's decision to distinguish Depp with the Donostia Award, the festival's highest honor, saying it tarnished the event's image and delivered the wrong message to victims of gender violence.

Last year, Depp lost a libel case against a British newspaper that accused him of domestic violence, with the judge on the case ruling the allegations were "substantially correct." In March, a British court refused Depp permission to appeal the ruling that he assaulted his former wife, Amber Heard, saying his attempt to overturn the decision had "no real prospect of success."

Depp is also suing Heard for $50 million in Virginia over a Washington Post op-ed essay that she wrote about domestic violence. The trial in that case was recently delayed until April 2022.

Spain's Association of Female Filmmakers and Audiovisual Media, which has close links to the festival, said that awards should not be granted based only on professional or artistic achievements.

"What is the message that remains when men denounced for sexist violence are applauded, photographed on red carpets, surrounded by unconditional fans?" the association, known as CIMA, wrote in a Twitter thread in which it acknowledged the "complexity" of the issue.

The actor, who played the famous Jack Sparrow in "Pirates of the Caribbean" and leading roles in "Edward Scissorhands" and "Sleepy Hollow," spoke to reporters hours before the award's gala. The controversy emerged despite the festival's request for media questions to be constrained to Depp's career. A press conference moderator blocked a question from a reporter about the CIMA's criticism.

"It takes one sentence, then there's no more ground, the carpet has been pulled," Depp said without mentioning Heard or the libel cases.

"It's not just me that it's happened to. It's happened to a lot of people: women, men, children have suffered from various types of unpleasantries that sadly at a certain point they begin to think it's normal, that it's them. It's not," he said.

The actor also talked about how the coronavirus pandemic has brought more people to watch movies on screens at homes rather than going to cinemas, which closed during lockdowns.

"The majority of the world went, 'You know, this ain't bad. We can sit and watch this thing at home. We can cook some popcorn, as opposed to the idea of a guy who makes $700 a week and wants to take his wife and kids out to dinner and a movie on the weekend, which is a $200 deal. I think the Hollywood movie machine has a few design flaws they are just realizing."

"I'm glad I saw it coming, personally," he added.

Rihanna takes time with album while unveiling lingerie line

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rihanna might be extremely consumed with rolling out her popular lingerie line, but finishing her forthcoming album is still a priority.

The multi-Grammy winner is just taking her time to "experiment." She suggests her new music will sound much different than her previous projects.

"You're not going to expect what you hear. Just put that in your mind," Rihanna said recently before the taping of her "Savage X Fenty Show Vol. 3" event, which will air Friday on Amazon Prime Video.

It's been five years since the pop star released her critically acclaimed eighth album "ANTI," which included hits such as "Work," "Love on the Brain" and "Needed." Last year, Rihanna said she had started recording new music, holding "tons of writing camps."

"Whatever you know of Rihanna is not going to be what you hear," said the singer, who has won nine Grammys in multiple categories including R&B, dance and rap. "I'm really experimenting. Music is like fashion. You should be able to play. I should be able to wear whatever I want. I treat music the same way. So I'm having fun and it's going to be completely different."

Rihanna hasn't announced a release date yet for her new album, but music plays a major role in her Savage X Fenty event. It returns for a third straight year and will highlight her fashion line's newest assortment of styles featuring an all-star lineup of models, actors and performers.

The show—recorded in downtown Los Angeles—will include performances by Nas, Ricky Martin, Jasmine Sullivan, Daddy Yankee and Normani. Adriana Lima, Gigi Hadid, Vanessa Hudgens, Erykah Badu and Alek Wek and Jeremy Pope make special appearances.

Rihanna said she's looking forward to unveiling some of her favorite styles from the new collection.

"The cat suits, the crotchless," she said, blushing and then moving on. "All the bras that make my boobies sit up, because, you know, I'm 33 now.

Family navigates complexities of Asperger's syndrome

DEAR ABBY: I'm a minor living at home with my parents and my brother. Everything's pretty stable. Mom works, but she isn't gone all the time or anything like that. However, I have a lot of problems with my dad.

He has Asperger's syndrome, and his behavior has caused many issues for me. The least of them is that every time I try to talk about any concern I have (with him or not involving him), he takes it personally and makes it all about himself. This and other emotionally invalidating behaviors have been happening for as long as I can remember, and it makes me feel guilty about my feelings.

I have been going to therapy to deal with my father problems, along with other mental health issues. My therapist has been encouraging me to feel sympathy for how much anxiety my dad has to deal with. Mom tells me he really does love me and it's just the Asperger's syndrome that is getting in the way. But I'm tired of hearing about how hard things are for him, and I don't think I should pay him any respect for his feelings if he doesn't give me any. His behavior is especially hurtful while I'm struggling with various mental health issues. Do you have any advice?

GIRL IN TURMOIL

DEAR GIRL: Yes, I do. Listen more carefully to what your therapist is trying to convey. You share something in common with your father; you both have diagnosed mental disorders. What you expect from him may be beyond his ABILITY to give. This is a sad situation, but the sooner you accept it, the less often you will look to your father for the emotional support he is unable to provide. When you need to discuss your issues, talk to your mother or your therapist, and you may find the support you are seeking.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: For the last 20 years, my wife and I have had a Friday night happy-hour tradition. We use the time to get caught up and to reconnect. Occasionally, we'll invite others to join us, but it's usually just the two of us, and we like it that way.

Some longtime friends from another state moved to our community recently. We invited them to a couple of happy hours and enjoyed the evenings, but we did not intend for our Fridays to become a foursome every week. Apparently, our friends think otherwise and keep showing up every Friday.

While we enjoy their company, we want our Fridays back! How do we get out of this arrangement and reclaim our connection time back without hurt feelings?

HAPPY HOUR FOR TWO, PLEASE

DEAR HAPPY HOUR: You describe this couple as longtime friends. Because their move is recent, they may be having trouble making friends and becoming involved in your community. The next time they show up, you and your wife should suggest some activities and ways for them to widen their circle of acquaintances. Then, the following Tuesday or Wednesday—well BEFORE they show up on your doorstep—give them a call and explain that your Friday nights are usually reserved for you and your wife "to get caught up and to reconnect" after a long and busy week. Let them know you will INVITE them to join you for happy hour when you are up for company.

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

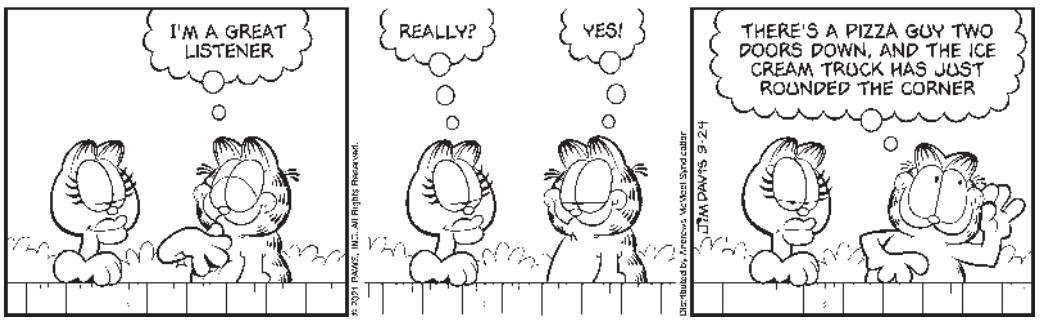
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OH, LAURA! IT LOOKS AMAZING!
THE COVER ART IS GREAT. I LOVE THE FONT THEY USED.
DAAAAAAAAG!
WHO'S THIS STUNNING AUTHOR ON THE BACK?
RIGHT? I WAS SMOLDERING AS HARD AS I COULD WITHOUT LAUGHING.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

MEDITATING?
Yes.
WHY?
IT ENHANCES MY SELF-AWARENESS.
ARE YOU AWARE THAT YOU'RE SITTING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FLOOR IN YOUR UNDERWEAR?
IT WAS THE FIRST THING I NOTICED.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Itty-bitty
6 Spigot
9 Merit badge org.
12 Yearned
13 Night before
14 Tease
15 Screen Actors —
16 Smoking wood
18 Hues
20 Singles
21 Ultramodernist
23 Singer Sumac
24 Jazz band section
25 Taj Mahal city
27 Photographer Adams
29 Like Peter Pan
31 Cowardly
35 Pulitzer category
37 Faction
38 CBer's device
41 Annoy
43 Camp bed
44 "Don't rub —!"
45 Baby
47 Actor/dancer Hines
49 Belt holders
52 Smack
53 Cote cry
54 Goof
55 Prof's helpers
56 Hostel
57 Eric Clapton hit

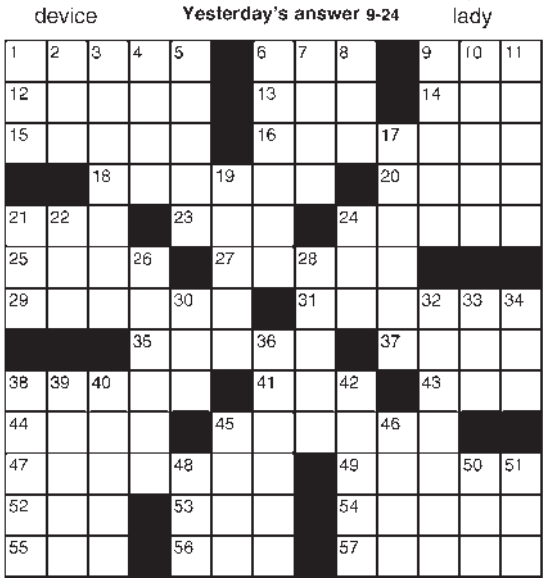
DOWN

1 Periodical, for short
2 Hosp. section
3 Coffee substitute
4 Move, in Realtor lingo
5 "Strange to say ..."
6 Capital of 45-Down
7 Hertz rival
8 Chest muscle
9 Big Apple borough
10 Yes or no follower
11 Void
17 Eucalyptus eaters
19 Nebraska city
21 Apprehend
22 Swelled head
24 Sun. talk
26 Pitching in
28 Muffler
30 "No seats" sign
32 "We won!"
33 Tokyo, once
34 Court divider
36 Judaical quorum
38 Correct
39 Places in the heart
40 Regimens
42 Superman, at birth
45 Persia, today
46 Asta's feeder
48 Kimono closer
50 D.C. figure
51 Span. lady

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	T	U	S		G	A	P		A	G	T	S
O	I	S	E		E	A	J		L	E	I	A
O	V	E	R		T	A	M		I	■	E	M
M	O	D	E	L	T		A	R	C	A	D	E
			N	A	H			I	I	N		
T	O	G	A		E	G	G	B	A	G	E	L
A	■	E			R	U	E			R	T	E
B	E	T	A	T	E	S	T		C	Y	A	N
		T	J	E			R	C	A			
S	H	O	D	D	Y		E	T	U	D	E	S
H	O	U	R		D	V	A		C	A	R	A
E	D	G	E		G	O	D		U	Z	I	S
A	S	H	Y		A	N	Y		S	E	E	S

Yesterday's answer 9-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Erin Chambers, 42; Candace Kita, 54; Nia Vardalos, 59; Kevin Sorbo, 63.

Happy Birthday: Laboring over something you have no control over will not help you get ahead this year. Step outside your comfort zone. Use your intelligence, not your brawn, to get things done. Broaden your horizons to avoid being trapped. It's up to you to enjoy life's journey. Don't avoid the things you need to do; act and move forward. Your numbers are 6, 17, 23, 26, 31, 37, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Bartering is to your advantage. You'll captivate through imagination and spark interest in what you want to pursue. A partnership looks promising. The more you talk, the easier it will be to convince others to join the conversation. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* An unexpected change will result if you make demands or let someone push you. Keeping a balanced lifestyle will help you ward off anyone trying to infiltrate your plans. Be secretive; you'll complete what you set out to do without interference. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Work diligently behind the scenes where no one will bother you. Aim to accomplish the most in the least amount of time, and move on to activities that offer mental and physical stimulation. Engage in social events that are safe and captivating. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Stick to what and who you know. Avoid outsiders; stay within your inner circle to avoid mistrust and harsh words. Put your emphasis on improvements and doing things in your unique fashion. Set trends rather than follow them. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Hold on to your emotions. Refuse to give someone the upper hand by showing your true feelings. Keep your life simple, and stay focused on what you can accomplish without giving too much away. Do things your way, and avoid meddlers. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Alter the way you do things, and you will learn something valuable. A change will revitalize your outlook and introduce you to a life choice you hadn't considered in the past. A friend or relative will give you something to think about. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* An energetic approach to life will catapult you past anyone who interferes. Your desire to win will keep you revved up and ready to excel. Taking on a partner will slow you down. Go it alone, and shoot for the stars. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A change is overdue. Put your plans in motion. Forgo the past, and move forward without looking back or letting any hurdles faced deter you from taking the first step. Embrace life and take charge of your future. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Sharing too much information will slow you down. Be sure you take care of the necessary details to ensure your plans unfold without a hitch. Timing is everything, and letting outside interference intervene will disrupt the outcome. Focus on preparation and presentation. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Spend more time at home or working alongside people who share your goals and interests. A change at home will make your life easier and help eliminate stress. Learn from the experience you encounter, and you'll achieve the happiness you deserve. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Stop and take inventory. Remember what's happened in the past, and make the necessary changes to prevent making the same mistake twice. Trust your intelligence, not your emotions, and you will figure out the best way to move forward. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Put your energy where it counts, and you'll find a position that intrigues you. Revamp your resume to fit trends. Self-improvement projects are favored, and spending time with someone you love will bring you closer together. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are enthusiastic, physical and open-minded. You are dedicated and loyal.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9								3
			3	4	7			
		6				2		
	2		7		8		9	
	8			2			5	
	9		1		5		4	
		2				7		
			5	9	1			
4								1

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	1	3	7	6	8	5	2	4
6	4	7	2	3	5	8	9	1
5	2	8	9	4	1	3	6	7
8	6	1	5	7	9	2	4	3
3	9	4	1	2	6	7	5	8
7	5	2	3	8	4	9	1	6
1	8	5	6	9	7	4	3	2
4	3	6	8	5	2	1	7	9
2	7	9	4	1	3	6	8	5

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CHEERS TO YOU! **Solution: 6 letters**

P	T	N	E	D	N	E	P	E	D	N	I	B	L	S
E	R	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	H	R	U	I	I	S
R	A	O	A	C	P	T	U	L	A	S	E	N	F	E
F	I	Y	F	N	A	C	H	S	I	W	C	A	E	C
O	N	F	N	E	K	R	E	N	P	E	E	M	M	C
R	I	R	H	O	S	F	E	L	R	E	A	N	Y	U
M	N	I	O	D	M	S	U	E	E	G	C	E	P	S
A	G	E	A	L	S	E	I	L	R	B	A	I	P	H
N	T	N	E	M	O	M	R	O	O	R	R	P	A	T
C	C	D	H	O	U	S	E	E	N	O	R	A	H	L
E	G	D	E	L	W	O	N	K	C	A	H	I	T	A
D	L	E	T	S	A	O	T	F	I	G	L	C	P	E
O	A	A	F	I	T	N	E	S	S	B	L	U	S	H
O	D	L	A	U	G	H	E	G	A	I	R	R	A	M
M	I	L	E	S	T	O	N	E	V	I	G	O	A	L

© 2021 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 9/24

Acknowledge, Blush, Business, Career, Celebrate, Ceremony, Dance, Deal, Dream, Fitness, Friend, Game, Gift, Give, Glad, Goal, Happy, Health, Holiday, House, Independent, Laugh, Life, Marriage, Milestone, Moment, Mood, New, Performance, Praise, Professional, Salut, School, Sincere, Solo, Special, Success, Thankful, Toast, Training, Wish, Year

Yesterday's Answer: Fishmongers

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Kiermaier hit after scouting report flap; Rays to playoffs

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Hit by a pitch two days after scooping up a Toronto scouting report and setting off a flap, Kevin Kiermaier hopes to see the Blue Jays in the playoffs.

"Oh yeah, it was intentional," Kiermaier said after reliever Ryan Borucki hit him on the back with his first pitch in the eighth inning Wednesday.

Tampa Bay's 7-1 victory clinched its third straight postseason berth. When asked why he wants to face Toronto again, Kiermaier replied: "The motivation is there. That's all that needs to be said."

"Pretty much almost went behind me," Kiermaier said. "I thought it was a weak move, to be quite honest. It's over. It's didn't hurt by any means, so I don't care. Whatever. We move on. We got a series win, and I hope we play those guys, I really do."

Borucki was ejected after the umpires met, which prompted Blue Jays manager Charlie Montoyo and enraged pitching coach Pete Walker to storm out of the dugout to argue as played spilled onto the field. Walker also was tossed, and there were no incidents between the players.

"I wanted to go down and away, as I was coming forward I felt the ball slip out of my hand and I missed up and in, and I accidentally hit him," Borucki said. "They can think want they want over there in their locker room, but it is what it is."

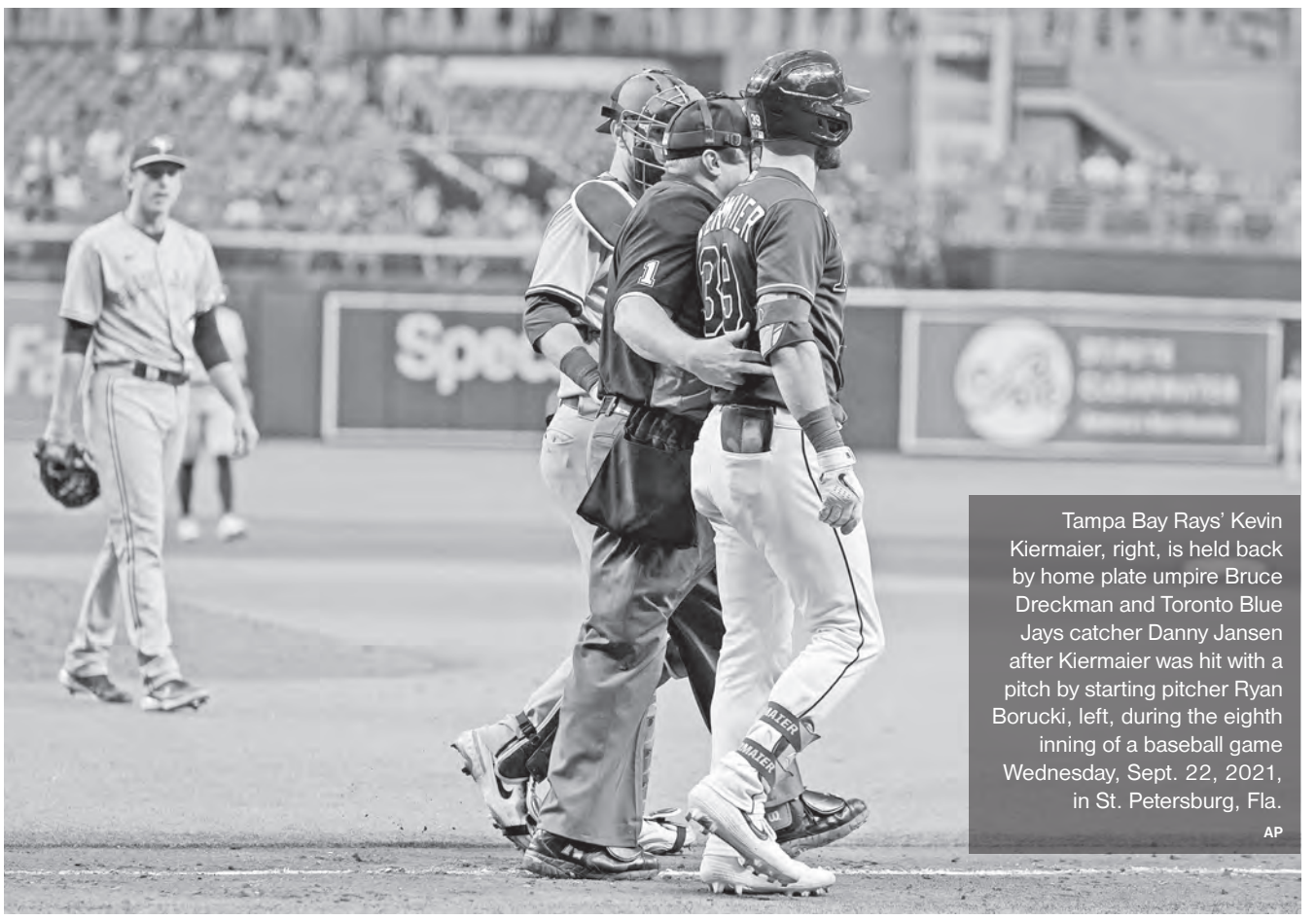
Borucki was tossed by crew chief Joe West.

"I was just like, I missed arm-side, like I miss arm-side a lot," Borucki said. "I pitch inside all the time, and he was like, 'You've just got to go.'"

Rays second baseman Brandon Lowe called the hit by pitch "kind of bush league,"while manger Kevin Cash was disappointed.

Montoyo said Kiermaier was not hit intentionally, maintaining he didn't want to use another pitcher in the one-sided game.

"Pete's reaction told me everything about it," Montoyo said. "He missed. He hit him, but I understand what it looks like. I understood how the Rays got upset about it. That thing was on for two days."



Tampa Bay Rays' Kevin Kiermaier, right, is held back by home plate umpire Bruce Dreckman and Toronto Blue Jays catcher Danny Jansen after Kiermaier was hit with a pitch by starting pitcher Ryan Borucki, left, during the eighth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021, in St. Petersburg, Fla. AP

Yankees 7, Rangers 3

In New York, Gleyber Torres doubled home Joey Gallo for the tiebreaking run in the eighth inning, Gary Sánchez followed with a two-run homer and New York rallied past Texas for a three-game sweep heading into a divisional stretch that will decide their postseason fate.

New York made two errors, allowed two stolen bases, had a baserunner sprint through a stop sign but score easily and another thrown out at home plate.

The Yankees' wild-card chase takes them to Fenway Park for three games starting Friday night followed by three at at Toronto and a season-ending three-game homestand against Tampa Bay.

New York is half a game ahead of Toronto for the second and final AL wild card after the Blue Jays lost a matinee to Tampa Bay, which clinched a postseason spot with the victory. Boston is two games ahead of the Yankees.

The Yankees won their third straight, scoring four runs with two outs in the eighth inning after Gallo reached when his popup off Spencer Patton (1-2) dropped in against the shifted Rangers.

Phillies 4, Orioles 3

In Philadelphia, Bryce Harper threw out the tying run at the plate in the eighth inning and Andrew McCutchen hit a two-run home run to keep Philadelphia in the hunt in the NL East race.

The Phillies took two of three against the 104-loss Orioles. Next up, four games against the Pirates.

Philadelphia is three games behind Atlanta for first in the division.

The Orioles trimmed the lead to 4-3 with two outs in the eighth and had a runner on second when Pat Valaika singled to right field. Pedro Severino was waved home and Harper fired a strike to catcher J.T. Realmuto to end the innng.

Red Sox 12, Mets 5

In Boston, Kyle Schwarber homered twice and scored four times, and Chris Sale struck out eight in five innings as Boston won its seventh straight.

The Red Sox scored in each of the first six innings and have not lost since Sept. 13.

The winning streak has lifted Boston from fourth place in the AL East—percentage points out of playoff position—into second and the top AL wild-card spot, with a two-game lead over the Yankees.

Sale (5-0) allowed two runs on six hits in his seventh start since returning from Tommy John surgery.

Braves 9, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Adam Duvall lost a home run to a baserunning miscue, but Atlanta rebounded with homers by Austin Riley, Ozzie Albies and Freddie Freeman in beating Arizona.

Ian Anderson pitched two-hit ball in six-plus innings as Atlanta (80-70) won its fifth straight and maintained its three-game lead over Philadelphia in the NL East with 12 games remaining.

The Braves got to Merrill Kelly (7-11) for three runs in the first — and that could have been four, except Duvall passed Riley between first and second after his deep drive to left-center tipped the glove of Arizona center fielder Jake McCarthy and went over the wall. Duvall was ruled out at second on what's known as a "runner's fielder's choice."

Mariners 4, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Calif., Kyle Seager hit his 35th home run, Ty France also connected and Seattle moved up in the playoff race, beating Oakland for its fourth straight win.

Seattle topped the A's for the third day in row to pull within 2 1/2 games of the Yankees for the second AL wild card. Oakland fell 3 1/2 back of New York.

Chris Flexen (13-6) struck out eight and walked two, allowing one run on three hits over seven stellar innings. Drew Steckenrider finished for his 11th save.

Tom Murphy added an RBI single in the off Cole Irvin (10-14), who dropped to 0-4 lifetime against the Mariners with all four defeats in as many starts this year.

Matt Chapman homered in the fifth for the A's.

Rockies 10, Dodgers 5

In Denver,Sam Hilliard lined a three-run homer, C.J. Cron had four hits and Colorado snapped a five-game skid at Coors Field by beating NL West title-chasing Los Angeles.

The Dodgers may be in danger of losing more ground to division-leading San Francisco. They entered the day a game behind the Giants, who played late in San Diego.

The game had all the makings of a pitchers' duel with All-Stars Walker Buehler and Germán Márquez on the mound. Instead, it was anything but, as the teams combined for 19 hits, including three homers.

The Dodgers Luke Raley displayed his power by drilling a two-run homer to center in the third inning that was measured by Statcast at 472 feet.

Twins 5, Cubs 4

In Chicago, Max Kepler homered twice, rookie Joe Ryan struck out a season-high 11, and Minnesota dealt Chicago its ninth loss in 11 games.

Kepler staked the Twins to a 2-0 lead with a homer in the first inning and hit a tiebreaking drive in the fourth.

Ryan (2-1) limited the Cubs to three hits in five innings. The 25-year-old right-hander became the first pitcher in Washington Senators//Twins history with 11 strikeouts in five innings or fewer.

Starter Kyle Hendricks (14-7) took the loss as the Cubs struck out 18 times, tying their season high against Pittsburgh on Sept. 2.

Cardinals 10, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Paul Goldschmidt and Tyler O'Neill homered as St. Louis won its 11th straight game and extended its lead for the second NL wild-card spot with a win over NL Central-leading Milwaukee, which dropped its fourth straight.

Goldschmidt also doubled, singled and scored four runs to help St. Louis stretch its best winning streak since an 11-game string in 2001.

St. Louis leads by 4 1/2 games over Cincinnati and Philadelphia for the final NL playoff slot.

Miles Mikolas (2-2) gave up two runs and four hits in seven innings. It was his longest outing of the season.

Nationals 7, Marlins 5

In Miami, Juan Soto took over the NL batting lead, getting three hits and three RBIs in Washington's win over Miami.

Soto singled, doubled and hit his 27th homer, raising his average to .321 and passing former teammate Trea Turner of the Los Angeles Dodgers, who began the night at .318. Soto walked twice and with 130 tied Bryce Harper's team season record, set in 2018.

Josiah Gray (1-2) got his first big league win, allowing two runs and six hits in six inning with eight strikeouts and two walks. Tanner Rainey earned his second save.

Yadiel Hernández and Luis García also homered for the Nationals. Nick Fortes had a pinch-hit, two-run homer and Sandy León added a solo shot for Miami.

Giants 8, Padres 6

In San Diego, Calif., Scott Kazmir got the San Francisco Giants into a jam and rookie reliever Camilo Doval got them right out of it.

Doval got three huge outs on eight pitches at a pivotal juncture for the Giants, who beat the free-falling San Diego Padres 8-6 Wednesday night to take a two-game lead in the NL West. Kris Bryant hit a bases-clearing double and Buster Posey had four hits and scored three times.

The Giants got some help in their push for their first division title since 2012 when the defending World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers lost 10-5 at Colorado. The Dodgers have won the division eight straight seasons.

The Giants, whose 99-53 record is the best in the majors, pulled within one win of reaching 100 for the eighth time in franchise history.

The Giants raved about the performance of Doval, a 24-year-old Dominican who relieved Kazmir with the bases loaded, no outs and one run already in during the fifth inning. Doval (4-1) struck out Manny Machado on three straight sliders and then got Tommy Pham to ground into an inning-ending double play.

Astros 9, Angels 5

In Anaheim, Calif., Houston manager Dusty Baker says a huge source of pride about his AL West-leading team is the way it plays defense. It showed Wednesday night as right fielder Chas McCormick made two huge plays in the Astros' 9-5 victory over the Los Angeles Angels in 12 innings.

McCormick made a one-hop throw to prevent Shohei Ohtani from scoring the potential game-winning run in the 10th inning. Two innings later, the Astros broke through with four runs, including a two-run double by Jose Altuve, to reduce their magic number to three for clinching their fourth division title in five seasons.

"He has been working on his throwing and grip. He made a great play in the outfield," said Baker of McCormick. "Defense doesn't win you many games but it can lose you games. That was a big one to win."

Dolphins say Tagovailoa broke ribs, won't play vs Raiders

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Tua Tagovailoa's bruised ribs are actually fractured ribs, and that means the Miami Dolphins will have a new starting quarterback this week when they visit the Las Vegas Raiders.

The Dolphins announced the updated diagnosis Wednesday after initial tests suggested Tagovailoa was dealing with bruised ribs. Further exams showed the fractures, and the Dolphins already have decided that Jacoby Brissett will start this weekend.

It's unclear how long Tagovailoa will be sidelined. Dolphins coach Brian Flores did not want to offer a timetable for a potential return but said Tagovailoa is already improving.

"This is a tough kid," Flores said. "He wants to play. He's actually trying to play. We're going to save him from himself a little bit on this and hold him out this week and then take it week to week from there."

Brissett last started a game at the end of 2019, though he played almost the entire game against Buffalo last weekend. He's 12-20 as a starter, the role he said he prepares himself for each week.

"I think that's been my mentality since I got in the league," Brissett said. "I've been in situations where I honestly didn't know what my chances were and when my opportunities were going to come. So I just wanted to make sure when I went out there I put my best foot forward and just stick with that mindset that has put me in good situations."

For now, the Dolphins aren't planning to make a roster move. Tagovailoa hasn't yet been placed on injured reserve, a move that—if it happened—would keep him sidelined for at least three games. The Dolphins have Reid Sinnett on the practice squad, and Flores said he would serve as the backup quarterback this week.

Sinnett had a strong preseason finale for Miami last month, completing 22 of 33 passes for 343 yards with two touchdowns and an interception in a 29-26 comeback win over Cincinnati. He has not thrown a regular-season NFL pass.

In this Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021 file photo, Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa passes against the New England Patriots during the first half of an NFL football game in Foxborough, Mass. AP

"We're just going to move forward with the guys we have available," Flores said.

Tagovailoa was injured on the second series of Miami's 35-0 loss to Buffalo last weekend. He took a hit on a fourth-down play from the Bills' A.J. Epenesa, then slowly made his way to the sideline where a cart was waiting to take him off the field.

Tagovailoa completed 17 of 22 passes for 94 yards and a touchdown when the Dolphins went to Las Vegas and beat the Raiders 26-25 last season.

Brissett completed 24 of 40 passes for 169 yards and an interception after entering the game as Tagovailoa's replacement last week. He was sacked four times—Miami allowed six on the day, a figure that doesn't even count the play when Tagovailoa got hurt.

Offensive line play has been a major concern for Miami this season, and Flores said the evaluation process to find the best five players there continues.

"There's going to be a lot of competition in practice this week," Flores said. "And when we come out of practice this week, we'll make the decision on who will be out there."

But Brissett pushed back on the notion that the biggest issue in the Buffalo loss was the offensive line. He said the blame should be felt by numerous positions, and that everyone should have felt like part of the problem.

"Look, it's not my offense or Tua's offense," Brissett said. "It's the team. We're going to go as the team goes, not as the quarterback position goes or whatever position goes. We're going to go as we go. And that's what I relayed to the guys. That's what it's all about. It's not about who's starting at quarterback. It's about us understanding that objective that week and it's about us every week and we've got to go take care of our business."

Denver Broncos head coach Vic Fangio, left, and Jacksonville Jaguars head coach Urban Meyer greet each other before an NFL football game, Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021, in Jacksonville, Fla. AP

Fangio: Meyer says 'every week it's like playing Alabama'

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Vic Fangio says Urban Meyer told him coaching in the NFL is "like playing Alabama" every week.

Denver's coach relayed his conversation from last weekend with the embattled Jacksonville Jaguars coach to illustrate a point about parity in the NFL.

Asked on Wednesday how his Broncos (2-0) would handle being a 10½-point favorite this weekend against the Jets (0-2), Fangio said betting lines "don't mean anything to us. You know, this is the NFL."

Then, he recounted his conversation with Meyer from the Broncos' 23-13 victory at Jacksonville (0-2).

"I don't know Urban Meyer at all really, I met him the other day, shook his hand before the game and after the game and his comment to me was, 'Every week it's like playing Alabama in the NFL,'" Fangio said.

"And that's it. Everybody's capable of beating everybody in this league."

Meyer has lost back-to-back games for the first time since 2013 when his Ohio State Buckeyes lost to Michigan State in the Big Ten title game and to Clemson in the Orange Bowl.

The Jaguars were roasted on social media for a postgame tweet Sunday night that featured a message from Meyer following the franchise's 17th consecutive loss.

It read, "Hang in there with us. We're going to get better. The one thing about Jacksonville and the 904, go to sleep knowing there's not going to be any group working harder to get this thing flipped."

Beneath those words was a photo of Jaguars players and coaches arm-in-arm with No. 1 pick Trevor Lawrence in the middle. Meyer was conspicuously absent from the photo.

The post promoted one podcaster to respond, "Bro ... It's only Week 2."

Meyer has had a rough transition to the NFL following a 17-year run as a college head coach who won 85% of his games and three national championships.

He botched the hiring of two coordinators (Chris Doyle, Brian Schneider), invited Tim Tebow to training camp as a tight end, didn't upgrade a bad offensive line in the offseason and had Lawrence split valuable first-team repetitions in training camp with a quarterback no longer on the roster.

The Jaguars looked dysfunctional in a 37-21 loss at Houston in Meyer's NFL coaching debut and when Southern California fired coach Clay Helton a day later, speculation swirled about Meyer's immediate future in Jacksonville.

Meyer responded last week by saying "there's no chance" he takes the Trojans job and he insisted he was in Jacksonville for the long haul.

The Jaguars host the undefeated Arizona Cardinals (2-0) Sunday. The previous time Meyer lost three consecutive games was in 2010, when his Florida Gators lost to Alabama, LSU and Mississippi State.

Triton Esports team wins first Valorant title for UOG

Triton Esports has claimed its first Valorant title for the University of Guam in the Latte Esports Valorant Summer Series 2021. The Tritons competed with five other teams over the two-month competition, securing their final victory of 2-1 over Team Rush earlier this month.

"It was the drive from the players and me to really want this win," said Will Hong, Valorant coach for Triton Esports.

The tournament format for the first-person shooter game had two parts: 10 rounds of double round-robin play and then a single-elimination playoff for the top four teams.

The Tritons beat out the competition during the double round-robin matches ending with a 9-1 record, losing only to team Kolab Koalas.

In the playoffs, the Tritons secured a win against team Immunity to advance to the final match against Team Rush, who beat out Kolab Koalas.

Triton Esports competitors for the Latte Esports Valorant Summer Series 2021: John Paul "Jrizzy" Tamayo, Gavin "Mango" Mangosong, Phillip "Que" Quenga, Team Captain An "Akursa" Truong, and Daniel "Chobo" Lee. TRITON ESPORTS

Five-man teams representing Team Rush and Triton Esports competed in the finals of the Latte Esports Valorant Summer Series 2021 earlier this month. TRITON ESPORTS

Team coaches Lance "Jehex" Kettenacker of Team Rush and An "Akursa" Truong of Triton Esports led their teams to the final round of the Latte Esports Valorant Summer Series 2021. TRITON ESPORTS

Both teams overcame the tension of the final day and came prepared to give it their all.

Debating between their two strongest map picks of Haven or Ascent, the Tritons ended up picking Haven for Match 1. UOG was able to secure the match 13-8.

Team Rush chose Icebox as the next map. Rush's team captain, Lance "JEHEX" Kettenacker, did not hold back as he commandeered Rush to a quick victory to even the set 13-6.

"On the final day of the tournament, the energy was on fire," Truong said. "The atmosphere was unbelievable."

Match 3 was played on the Bind map. Knowing it was one of the weakest maps for their athletes, the Tritons had spent extra time on it during practice. Their dedication paid off as they secured the final round with a 7-3 win.

"The team did a great job throughout the whole series. We had routinely practiced together, and that was able to grow our chemistry and communications," Truong said. "Each of the team members had put in their own time to improve and learn better ways to play the game."

The final match can be viewed on YouTube at https://youtu.be/csm3p9te5Zw. ***(PR)***

Timberwolves fire basketball ops boss Rosas after 2 seasons

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Minnesota Timberwolves fired president of basketball operations Gersson Rosas on Wednesday, less than a week before training camp in yet another change in leadership for this long-languishing franchise.

Owner Glen Taylor announced that the Timberwolves "parted ways" with Rosas in a two-sentence statement that revealed no direct explanation for the dismissal after just two seasons.

"As an organization, we remain committed to building a winning team that our fans and city can be proud of," said Taylor, who has begun the process of selling his majority stake in the club to e-commerce mogul Marc Lore and former baseball star Alex Rodriguez.

Executive vice president Sachin Gupta was temporarily elevated to guide the basketball operations, Taylor confirmed in a separate announcement made about 2 1/2 hours later.

"We are committed to staying aligned to achieve our short-term goals and reach our long-term vision," Taylor said.

Star center Karl-Anthony Towns appeared to be caught off guard by the decision, tweeting out a three-letter acronym for a profane expression of confusion.

Rosas became the highest-ranking Latino in an NBA front office when he was hired in May 2019 after a long tenure with the Houston Rockets. Rosas replaced Tom Thibodeau, who held the dual role of head coach and president of basketball operations until his firing by the Timberwolves four months earlier.

Thibodeau's successor on the bench was Ryan Saunders, who was initially retained by Rosas but fired in February after 137 games on the job. Rosas took the unusual tack of hiring Chris Finch off the staff of the Toronto Raptors and making him the immediate midseason replacement.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Tampa Bay	94	59	.614	–
Boston	88	65	.575	6
New York	86	67	.562	8
Toronto	85	67	.559	8½
Baltimore	48	104	.316	45½

Central Division

Chicago	85	66	.563	–
Cleveland	74	76	.493	10½
Detroit	74	78	.487	11½
Kansas City	69	83	.454	16½
Minnesota	67	85	.441	18½

West Division

Houston	91	61	.599	–
Seattle	83	69	.546	8
Oakland	82	70	.539	9
Los Angeles	72	80	.474	19
Texas	55	97	.362	36

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	80	70	.533	–
Philadelphia	78	74	.513	3
New York	73	79	.480	8
Miami	64	88	.421	17
Washington	63	89	.414	18

Central Division

z-Milwaukee	91	61	.599	–
St. Louis	82	69	.543	8½
Cincinnati	78	74	.513	13
Chicago	67	85	.441	24
Pittsburgh	57	94	.377	33½

West Division

z-San Francisco	99	53	.651	–
z-Los Angeles	97	55	.638	2
San Diego	76	75	.503	22½
Colorado	71	80	.470	27½
Arizona	48	104	.316	51

z-clinched playoff berth

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UPSETS

From Page 24

In the Saipan United-Bangladesh FC semis tiff, the latter drew its goals from Abdul Luvlu Shahanewaz, Rakib Hassan, and Md. Soheal Akanda.

The One FC and Bangladesh FC will dispute the MSL 2 championship this Sunday at 5:30pm after the battle for third place between Bangladesh Youth and Saipan United at 2pm. In other consolation matches, Shirley's FC is scheduled to duel the NMI Women's National Team at 6:30pm today for fifth place, while Matansa and Island Star will collide for the seventh spot at 8pm. These matches maybe subjected to changes depending on the weather conditions this weekend.

In other results last week, the NMI WNT topped Island Star, 2-0, while Shirley's defeated Matansa, 3-1.

Irish Pagarao, Dhiraj Chhetri, and Ricky Seo made one goal apiece for Shirley's, while Matansa's lone goal came from Maui Johnson. Jannah Casarino and Allyssya Angeles registered the two goals for the NMI WNT.

MSL
NMI 18 5, MP United 2

The NMI Boys U18 National Team extended its winning run to seven after thwarting MP United last Sunday.

It was a come-from-behind win for the NMI U18, as the team was down at the break, 0-2. Tanapon Unsa made both goals for MP United and that was it, as the NMI U18 battled back in the second half to keep its hold of the top spot of the team standings with its 7-0-0 win-draw-loss mark. MP United fell to a 3-0-5 slate for fourth place.

Kaden Church led the NMI U18's triumph after firing four goals, while Richard Steele chipped in one.

MP United 7, Old B Bank 0

Before losing to the NMI U18, MP United came from an easy victory over the Old B Bank last Sept. 16.

Unsa got a hat-trick, while Yoshi Mafnas contributed two goals, and Jamin Elliot and Nick Holt had one apiece.

Paire FC 5, Old B Bank 4

In the other MSL match last Sunday, Paire duplicated NMI U18's seventh win after outlasting the Old B Bank.

Five players hit the board for Paire with Mareko Tekopua giving the team its first goals. Trey Dunn scored next and was followed by Danny Agulto, Eric Barajas, and Steve McKagan. Gabriel Arkoh carried the Old B Bank on his shoulder as he made three goals, while the squad's other goal was courtesy of Albert Bergancia.

CAROL

From Page 24

and 2016 Pacific Games gold medalist said the Debbie Southern Furman Fall Classic was a great way to have their feet wet going into the 2021-2022 NCAA season.

"We didn't have a fall season last year during my freshman year because of COVID-19. Fall season is basically an individual season for us to get an opportunity to earn individual rankings up and to compete. So first of all, I am grateful that we get to have a fall season this year during this difficult time. The Furman Fall Classic was our first tournament and I am proud of my teammates who competed hard and had a good result for our team overall. This is a great start for the 2021 season and there's many more to come," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Lee said she also used the offseason to improve her game and it obviously showed during the Debbie Southern Furman Fall Classic.

"[I've added] more variations to my game, more aggressive and looking to finish off from the net. Also I worked a lot on my forehand, serve and my volley transition with my coaches and I also have been communicating with my dad and got his coaching and his advice as well and has been always helpful," she said.

As far as her individual and team aspirations for the 2021-2022 is concerned, the Saipan Community School alumnus said she wants Georgia Tech to become one of the best teams and for her to get some ranking points.

"My expectations are always high towards on myself and for my team either I was a freshman or a sophomore. We always want to give our best and be one of the top teams in women's Division I. Also, as for myself, my goal is to get ranked individually in singles and in doubles and get into the individual NCAA tournament this year."

Aside from Lee, also compiling unblemished records in the Debbie Southern Furman Fall Classic were freshmen Kylie Bilchev and Kate Sharabura and Monika Dedaj and Sophia Sassoli. Bilchev topped Tennessee's Rebeka Mertea in the title match of flight one. Sharabura beat North Carolina's Linsday Zink in the flight 11 finals, while Dedaj and Sassoli won the flight 10 and flight 12 championship matches after triumphing over Michigan State's Marta Falceto and Ohio State's Dani Schoenly, respectively in the finals.

Lee and the rest of her Yellow Jackets teammates return to action at the Georgia Southern Fall Shootout, Oct. 8-10.

LADY

From Page 24

straight game.

Following the day's theme, Dandan Middle School also blanked a hapless Saipan Community School side, 11-0.

Priscilla Tomokane led DMS with 4 points, while Sheena Yamada added 3 points for the Lady Tottots. The Lady Tsunamis succumbed to their second straight defeat after opening the season 2-0.

In the day's penultimate game, Hopwood 2 won its second match of the day after downing Dandan, 11-6. They are now 2-3 in the middle school standings.

Leemarvin scored all 11 the points and had a key sequence in the final moments of the game. The bruising forward made a 3-pointer then blocked a shot by a Dandan player to keep the Lady Tottots at bay. Dolores Sanchez led the now 2-3 DMS with 4 markers.

A Hopwood Middle School player, right, takes a shot, during their game against Mt. Carmel School in the boys division of the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League 2021-2022 last Tuesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hopwood dominates Mt. Carmel

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hopwood Middle School pounced in on Mt. Carmel School, 8-1, to take its second win in as many games in the boys division of the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League 2021-2022.

Mark Costales stood out in easy victory after scoring a hat-trick, making all his three goals in the first half of the one-sided game last Tuesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. Costales recorded his first goal in the sixth minute and the last two in the 10th and 16th. Five of his teammates backed Costales, as Paul Lizama, Jyro Cruz, Kian Estolas, Emerson Brillo, and Izeah Jolo contributed one goal apiece. Francisco Furey Maratita averted a shutout loss for Mt. Carmel after hitting his target in the 23rd minute.

With another blowout win, Hopwood, which coasted to a 10-0 victory over Saipan International School during the league's opening week, leads the standings in Group A.

SIS recovered from its season debut loss to Hopwood with a 6-2 triumph over Tanapag Middle School.

Moshel Sikkel powered the Geckos to its first win after drilling three goals. Taiga Namai-Scoggins chipped in two goals, while Sean Park added one. Sikkel registered a pair in the first half, scoring in the fifth and 16th minute, while he completed his hat-trick in the 26th. Tanapag, on the other hand, got its two goals from Nolan Ngewakl and Yutaka Kadokura.

Meanwhile, Group B games yesterday were canceled and will be rescheduled due to tropical storm watch. Chacha Oceanview Middle School was supposed to meet Francisco M. Sablan Middle School in the curtain-raiser, while Saipan Community School was slated to challenge Dandan Middle School.

Spate of sports cancellations due to Tropical Depression 20W

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Saipan International School 2 player spikes the ball over the net against Marianas High School 2 in their NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2021-2022 game Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. Matches yesterday were cancelled due to Tropical Depression 20W.

MARK RABAGO

This weekend's expected sports extravaganza has gone up in smoke as Tropical Depression 20W has cancelled a spate of interscholastic sports and the start of singles and doubles badminton this weekend.

Yesterday, Public School System athletic program director Nick Gross postponed all six games in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2021-2022 season at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

"Out of an abundance of caution and in hopes that all can be informed and make alternative plans, we will be postponing today's (Sept. 23) volleyball due to the unknowns pertaining to Tropical Depression 20W," he said in an email to all coaches.

Gross said they will only know today, Friday, whether matches for Saturday will push through.

The Northern Marianas Athletics also cancelled tomorrow's third PSS/NMA Cross Country Qualifying Invitational at the CPA Airport Field.

"We are all disappointed by the weather. Although it will probably be fine to run on Saturday morning, we all felt it was better to cancel out of an abundance of caution," said NMA distance running coach Ron Snyder.

He said the postponement of the third qualifier, which NMA was hosting, will necessitate a rescheduling of the third meet. However, the fourth and final qualifier hosted by Kagman High School will still push through—weather permitting—on Oct. 2.

"We will be meeting to discuss the meets going forward next week. Right now, we are getting ready for the KHS-hosted meet at Saipan Vegas on Oct. 2. The coach (KHS coach Nick Brennfleck) and I will be braving the weather to measure the course tomorrow," added Snyder.

The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation also heeded Gross' guidance and will also postpone today's IT&E Interscholastic Girls Middle School Basketball League at the MHS Gymnasium. NMIBF said they will reset their five-game schedule today after the regular season.

After postponing the start of the TakeCare Open Tournament last week, Northern Marianas Badminton Association was also forced to cancel this evening's start of the TakeCare Insurance Company Inc.-sponsored tournament. Tournament director Janelle Pangelinan said inclement weather also forced their hand in postponing the start of the competition, which also saw a venue change from the TSL Gymnasium in Gualo Rai to the Gilbert C. Gymnasium in Oleai.

Dung Tenorio tops third Mini Games golf qualifier

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Peter "Dung" Tenorio won the third qualifying tournament for the CNMI National Golf Team for the 2022 Northern Marianas Mini Games last Saturday at the Coral Ocean Resort.

Tenorio topped the men's division after edging Joe Sasamoto Jr. and Harry Nakamura by a stroke in the Commonwealth Federation of Golf Associations-organized tryout after finishing the 18 holes with a 5-over 77.

The Joeten Motor Co. executive shot a 1-over par 37 in the front nine and a 4-over par 40 in the back, including a birdie in the 18th hole, to finish with the day's lowest score.

Sasamoto came away with a 6-over 78 built around a 2-over par 38 in the first nine holes and a 4-over par 40 in last nine holes. He had three birdies in all—holes No. 9, 11, and 18. Nakamura matched Sasamoto's 78 after shooting a 40 in the front and a 38 in the back with 1-under pars in holes No. 4 and 17.

In the men's junior division, Li Zhin Yun topped the age group again after carding a 10-over 72. He shot identical 41s in the front and back nines. Joe "Kazu" Dela Cruz was the only other junior golfer to compete Saturday and he finished with a 108 (55-53).

In the women's division, veteran golfer Yuko Togawa topped the division after finishing with a 15-over par 87. She clubbed a 43 in the front nine and a 44 in the back nine.

Myun Son and Janet Torres settled for second and third place with identical scores of 90. The former shot a 44 and 46 in the first and last nine holes, while the latter curiously had a 44 and a 46 in the two parts.

In the women's junior division, Zhimin Jin repeated after firing a 16-over par 88. She started out with a 42 before ending her round with a 46. Soarin Oh was second in the age group with a 114 (54-60), while third place went to Sophia Herras with her 187 (92-95).

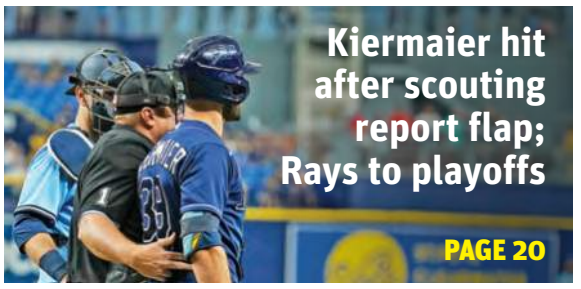
The fourth qualifying round for next year's golf competition in the Mini Games will be held on Oct. 2, also at the Coral Ocean Resort. CFoGA is looking at forming a national team made up of two men's players, two junior men's players, two women's players, and two junior women's players. Pacific Games Council eligibility rules dictate that only U.S. citizens who are CNMI residents can try out for the national team. Another eligibility requirement CFoGA included is anyone trying out should also be a member of any CFoGA-sanctioned club

CFoGA's officers include president Edward Manibusan, vice president J.J. Atalig, secretary/treasurer Lorraine Babauta, social and media officer Geri Dela Cruz and golf tournament coordinators Marco Peter and Joey Dela Cruz. Peter incidentally is also the chairman of the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee.

For more information on the CFoGA tryouts for the Mini Games, call Geri Dela Cruz at 783-4287 and Atalig at 285-1612.

Peter "Dung" Tenorio, seen here in a file photo center, topped the third qualifying tournament for the CNMI National Golf Team for the 2022 Northern Marianas Mini Games last Saturday at the Coral Ocean Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Kiermaier hit after scouting report flap; Rays to playoffs

PAGE 20

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Hopwood dominates Mt. Carmel

PAGE 23

Bangladesh Youth's Ali Shukqur, left, and The One FC's Feng Chun Jin ward each other off as they battle for posession during their semis game in the MSL2 Summer Season last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Upsets in MSL playoffs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The One FC and Bangladesh Football Club stunned their higher-ranked opponents in the playoff round of the Marianas Soccer League 2 Summer Season to set their title showdown this Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Bangladesh FC which took the last semis berth in MSL 2, stunned No. 1 seed Saipan United, 3-0, to notch the second finals seat in the division. Earlier in the first semis match last Sunday, No. 3 seed The One FC pulled off a 3-2 victory in a penalty shootout against No. 2 seed Bangladesh Youth.

Don Cabrera, Scott Kim, and Ming Guang Xu delivered the PK for The One FC. Xu also scored one of the two goals in regulation for The One FC in after hitting the board in the 10th minute, while Ri Cheng Xian knocked in the equalizer in the 68th, eight minutes after Mohammad Shariff Islam put Bangladesh Youth on top, 2-1. Rassel posted the other goal for Bangladesh Youth.

See UPSETS on Page 22

Lady Eagles win 5th straight in middle school hoops

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Grace Christian Academy raced to its fifth straight victory after dominating two teams in the IT&E Interscholastic Girls Middle School Basketball League last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

In the first game, Azriel Fatialofa scored 20 points in GCA's 33-0 blanking of the Lady Knights. The Lady Eagles led 15-0 at the half and then more than doubled that total when the game was all said and done.

Alyssa Kim added 8 points for GCA. MCS fell to 1-2.

In the last game of Wednesday's five-game set, GCA made it 2-for-2 for the day and scored its fifth straight win after a 25-2 near shutout of Tanapag Middle School. Fatialofa again dominated everyone with 15 big points. TMS dropped its third straight game.

In the second game, Hopwood Middle School 2 almost mirrored GCA's win over MCS by also giving up no points against sister team Hopwood 1, 32-0.

Kialeen Leemarvin scored 18 points for Hilitais 1. Hopwood 1 dropped its third

See LADY on Page 22

Grace Christian Academy (blue uniform) and Tanapag Middle School players battle for the loose ball during their game in the IT&E Interscholastic Girls Middle School Basketball League last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Carol undefeated in Furman Fall Classic

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Carol Lee and the rest of her teammates at Georgia Tech started the season on a high note after going undefeated in both the singles and doubles competition of last weekend's Debbie Southern Furman Fall Classic in Greenville, S.C.

Lee won all her matches to take home the flight four championship after rolling to a 6-2, 6-1 victory over Furman's Sara Snyder. Three Yellow Jackets finished the tournament undefeated in both singles and doubles and in all the team won five singles flight titles.

The many-time NMSA Students Athlete of the Year

See CAROL on Page 22

Georgia Tech's Carol Lee, left, poses with the rest of her teammates after a sterling run in last weekend's Debbie Southern Furman Fall Classic in Greenville, S.C. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO